

AFSC West Region Bulletin

March 15, 2016

Healing Justice Program

Event Against the Torture of Prisoners: Laura Magnani

Tuesday, March 23, 6PM

Niebyl-Proctor Library

6501 Telegraph Avenue, Oakland CA

AFSC Healing Justice Program, which is a part of the Prisoner Hunger Strike Solidarity Coalition, encourages Friends to attend this event with Hip Hop for Change, focused on solitary confinement. It should be lively! See the flyer at the link below.

Flyer here: http://oaklandquakers.org/AFSC/Flyers/2016/03.15/PHSS_HH4C_event.jpg

Introducing QNEMI.org: Laura Magnani

Would you like to connect with a community of like-minded individuals across the country working to end mass incarceration?

Are you looking for resources, programs, and events related to mass incarceration?

Do you have questions and want to learn more?

Announcing the new website for the Quaker Network to End Mass Incarceration!

➤ Go to QNEMI.ORG and create a free user account

The QNEMI website is a powerful tool designed to support the movement to end mass incarceration through:

- Organizing an exchange of resources, programs, events, and more
- Connecting individuals and organizations who are actively working in the same issue area or in the same geographic area
- Facilitating respectful, thoughtful, and dynamic discussions
- Supporting emerging initiatives through joint campaigns and strategies
- Promoting the leadership and solutions of the formerly incarcerated who are closest to the problem

About the network: The Quaker Network to End Mass Incarceration, with support from the American Friends Service Committee, is open and welcoming to all individuals and organizations working to end mass incarceration. The Network's mission is to contribute to this nationwide movement through a variety of means, including its website (QNEMI.ORG). For more information, please contact us at qnemi@afsc.org.

Flyer here: <http://oaklandquakers.org/AFSC/Flyers/2016/03.04/QNEMI.pdf>

Contra Costa Racial Justice Coalition: Jerry Elster

AFSC and its allies formed the Contra Costa (County, California - ed.) Racial Justice Coalition to

succeeded in getting the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisor to form a task force named the Racial Justice Task Force. The task force will investigate the disparity in the ways various ethnic groups participate in the criminal justice system. For example, while African Americans make up just 9.6% of Contra Costa's population, African Americans make up 26% of those charged in criminal cases, 41% of juvenile probationers and 30% of adult probationers. At the same time, African Americans make up 7.5% of people serving on juries.

The establishment of this task force follows a successful effort by the Coalition to defeat an attempt by the Sheriff of Contra Costa County to enlarge the jail.

While some in the community have responded to the task force defensively, the Board of Supervisors accepted the Coalition's argument that the racial disparities were unacceptable and needed to be addressed and that the best starting point was to have more and better data.

End "Wellness Checks": Laura Magnani

AFSC and its allies in the struggle against solitary confinement are deeply concerned about a new practice by staff of the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation of doing 30 minute "wellness checks" on prisoners in isolation, to be sure they are not about to harm themselves. Although the motivation for the checks was positive – a court decision to reduce the high number of suicides – the implementation by the CDCR, particularly at Pelican Bay State Prisons, is resulting to profound sleep deprivation and another form of torture. In part this may be because Pelican Bay was constructed in such a way that no one can walk down the corridors without creating a great deal of noise and disruption. But it may also be that some staff find the requirement onerous and hope that by conducting them in a disruptive manner, prisoners will themselves petition to have the practice ended.

Please write to the Secretary of the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, Scott Kernan, 1515 "S" St., Sacramento, CA 95811, asking to **immediately discontinue the checks until the problems have been resolved so that prisoners are able to sleep and restore their health.**

Wage Peace Program

We Have Not Been Moved - Resisting Racism and Militarism in 21st Century America: John Lindsay-Poland

Tuesday, March 15, 7PM

Modern Times Bookstore, 2919 24th Street, San Francisco, CA, 94110

In the first Northern California launch of *We Have Not Been Moved: Resisting Racism and Militarism in 21st Century America*, edited by Elizabeth 'Betita' Martinez, Mandy Carter and Matt Meyer, PM Press is proud to host Matt Meyer, Phil Hutchings, Francesca Fiorentini, Clare Bayard, Donna Willmont, Lawrence Shine, Martinez' daughter Tessa Koning-Martinez, Bato Talamantez (invited), and more in a celebration of the life and work of the pioneering Chicana activist-intellectual and the struggles she connected in her writing and her organizing.

Join us for an engaged conversation about the book Maya Angelou said was "so needed" for its "investigation of the moral issues of our time." From the debates within the civil rights movement

which Martínez played a central role in, to strategies for effective and sustained movement-building today, the book and the evening provide spaces for reflection, networking, and collective critical thinking about the work we must do to build for a better tomorrow.

About Elizabeth Betita Martínez:

Elizabeth Betita Martínez is a Chicana feminist and a long-time community organizer, activist, author, and educator. She has written numerous books and articles on different topics relating to social movements in the Americas. Her best-known work is the bilingual *500 Years of Chicano History in Pictures*, which later formed the basis for the educational video *¡Viva la Causa! 500 Years of Chicano History*. Her work has been hailed by Angela Y. Davis as comprising "one of the most important living histories of progressive activism in the contemporary era ... [Martínez is] inimitable...irrepressible...indefatigable."

Martínez began her political work in the early 1950s. She worked in New York for the United Nations Secretariat as a researcher on colonialism and decolonization in Africa. During the 1960s, Martínez served full-time in the civil rights movement with the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) in the South and as a coordinator of its New York office. In 1968, she moved to New Mexico to start a newspaper to support the Alianza Federal de Mercedes. Along with lawyer Beverly Axelrod, Martínez founded the bilingual movement newspaper *El Grito del Norte*, and co-founded and directed the Chicano Communications Center, a barrio-based organizing and education project. Since moving to the Bay Area in 1976, Martínez has organized around Latino community issues, taught women's studies, conducted anti-racist training workshops, and worked with youth groups. She ran for governor of California on the Peace & Freedom Party ticket in 1982 and has received many awards from student, community, and academic organizations, including Scholar of the Year 2000 by the National Association for Chicana and Chicano Studies. She is the author of *De Colores Means All of Us: Latina Views for a Multi-Colored Century* (1998), and editor of *SNCC's Letters From Mississippi* (1964). In 1997, she and Phil Hutchings co-founded the Institute for MultiRacial Justice, which "aims to strengthen the struggle against white supremacy by serving as a resource center to help build alliances among peoples of color and combat divisions."

Link to Facebook page here: <https://www.facebook.com/events/1571348956523004/>

67 Seños

4th Annual Fundraiser: Linda Sanchez

67 Sueños will host it's 4th annual fundraiser to continue supporting the activism of our youth leaders via artistic means. We hope we can count with your support by helping us spread the word, inviting your networks to attend the event, and committing to attending this soon to be powerful night of youth power, community celebration, amazing food, and youth performances.

Support us by:

- Sharing the event page, help us spread the word:
<https://www.facebook.com/events/979776925424645/>
- Sharing the flyer with your networks/post flyer in your work spaces (see attached flyer)
- Donating an item for our silent auction and/or making a financial contribution of your choosing to our program.

Why?

Each summer our youth create a mural highlighting a social issue/community victory of their choosing. They interview community members, hold brainstorm sessions to flesh out meaningful imagery for the mural, and paint the mural from start to finish. This is a completely youth led project and each youth receive a generous stipend for their commitment to this work. *100% of all money raised will go towards youth stipends and materials and supplies for our 2016 Summer Mural Project.* Our murals website is still under development but I wish to share with you the amazing work you are supporting by helping us spread the word and if at all possible donating an item for our silent auction and/or making a financial contribution.

Check out the amazing murals our youth have created: <http://67suenos.portfoliobox.net/>

****Please do not share this website on social media. We will officially release this link in two weeks.**

Should you have any questions or want to know how else you can support contact us at lsanchez@afsc.org or call me at 714.699.6926.

Flyer here: <http://oaklandquakers.org/AFSC/Flyers/2016/03.04/Migrant.pdf>

Economic Activism Program

afsc.org/investigate: Dalit Baum

AFSC is excited to announce that finally, after about a year of research, we are about to launch our new and expanded “investigate” investment screening tool, with a new section about the for-profit prison industry.

Check it out! The url is WWW.AFSC.ORG/INVESTIGATE.

Some of the goodies there:

- A mapping of the U.S. for-profit prison industry, highlighting the main companies involved in anything from facility management to food and commissary services, private probation and video visitation: <http://investigate.afsc.org/screens/prisons>
- For 13 of these companies, the main publicly traded ones (or ‘the dirty 13’), we provide an in-depth profile including a summary of divestment and boycott highlights so far. See, for example, G4S or 3M, Aramark or Geo.
- Our new divestment recommendation: criteria and list of companies (to be reevaluated in 6 months): <http://investigate.afsc.org/screens/afscdivestment>
- And most importantly, this is a tool for scanning investments. Upload or type in any list of holdings, however long, in any format, and the tool will scan it for you to produce a report highlighting the issues of concern.