

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER



Friends Place on Capitol Hill is a welcoming space that offers hospitality centered in peace, civic education, and justice-based advocacy for learners and leaders of all ages.

Quarterly Metrics

Friends Place engaged **41 Groups** and **625 Guests** for lodging and programming and hosted **3 Events** totaling **94 Attendees** (45 in-person and 49 online).

Twelve groups engaged **16 workshops**, including **8 lobby trainings**, and composted **1,464 pounds** of organic materials.

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Thank you!

Spring at Friends Place

This spring was Friends Place's busiest quarter to date, with 41 of the fiscal year's 97 groups engaging lodging and programming over the last three months. While the inside space has been busy with guests and events, the outside of Friends Place has been bustling as well- the vines of Virginia Creeper that were planted last fall have grown into the green wall on the back of the house, and the front pollinator garden is lively and lush.



Green wall progress in the courtyard (L) and front garden of native plants (R).

Continuing Revolution 2024

In June, Friends Place partnered with Pendle Hill and Beacon Hill Friends House for Continuing Revolution- an annual conference for young adults examining the connections between their spiritual, political, and interpersonal lives. This event brought a weekend of hybrid connection between three cities and online participants and centered community, learning, and creativity related to restorative justice. Participants were challenged to analyze the current state of the justice system and to envision the possibilities for a concept of justice rooted in repair rather than retribution. Programming included a Friday night opening circle led by Felix Rosado of Let's Circle Up, sessions led by Hamel from Boston Dyke March, Material Aid and Advocacy Project, and Naïké Savain, as well as a panel discussion featuring Felix, Naïké, and FCNL's Lauren Brownlee. Other highlights include an excursion to the Hirshhorn Gallery, a clearness committee practice at Lincoln Park, collaborative art and collage-making, and a community dinner.



Continuing Revolution participants, guest speakers, and Friends Place staff.

Community Engagement Series

Spotlighting three FCNL policy priorities- the environment, US wars and militarism, and gun violence prevention- spring engagement events included a community clothing swap, a screening of "What I Want You To Know," and "Building Safe Communities," a panel on community violence interruption. "What I Want You To Know," is a documentary about the tragedies of the U.S. wars in Iraq and Afghanistan told through the eyes of the veterans who served during the conflicts. After the screening, attendees participated in an enriching Q&A session with the director, Catie Foertsch, and producer and combat veteran Tommy Furlong. In June, FCNL Program Assistant Bri Tollie moderated a panel featuring José Moreno (FCNL's director for justice reform), Josephine Mazyck (FAN-DC), Annisha Perry (Black Swan Academy), Kevin Charles, and Rashad Singletary, where participants online and in-person learned about how these leaders are connected to efforts to create safe communities. To read *Rooted in Restorative Justice, Violence Interrupters Increase the Peace*, a new paper by José Santos Moreno, Kristen Archer, and Anika Forrest, visit: <https://act.fcnl.org/sign/dl-violence-interrupters-increase-peace/>



FCNL Staff showing off their new items



Staff and attendees at May's film screening



Panelists Kevin, Annisha, and Rashad with Bri (R)

Programming

Throughout April and May, students from FAN DC engaged a series of Friends Place programming where they learned about effective public speaking techniques, practiced telling personal stories for impactful advocacy, and how to work together as a group to reach a shared goal, including preparing for their visit with their DC council member.



Jackson and Olivia with the group from FAN DC

After participating in a lobby training with Olivia, Jackson, and Micah, the Friends School of Portland's 8th grade class had a fantastic lobby meeting with Rep. Chellie Pingree of Maine. They shared stories of why they care about stopping gun violence, many of them mentioning how they felt after the nearby Lewiston shooting. They asked for her office to support investments in community violence interrupters for FY2025 and she said she was supportive! They also got a chance to meet Senator Susan Collins and take a photo with her on the Capitol steps.



Friends School of Portland with Senator Collins.

Calls for Peace

Continuing its decades-long legacy of facilitating space for organizers and activists gathering in DC to call for peace, Friends Place welcomed organizations participating in advocacy days in April, calling for a ceasefire in Gaza. Advocates from NIAC Action, Peace Action, If Not Now, Jewish Voice for Peace, and FCNL gathered for meetings, planning, and a community panel at Friends Place.



NIAC Activists with FCNL's Hassan El-Tayyab (R)

Upcoming Events

- July 31st:** Students Uniting: Then & Now (hybrid)
- Aug. 1st:** *Light in Gaza* Book Club (online)
- Aug. 9th:** Morning Mindfulness @8AM (in-person)
- Aug. 13th & 14th:** Letting Your Life Speak: Vocational Discernment (online)

For more information and event registration, please visit friendsplacedc.org/events.
For programming and lodging requests, please visit the Friends Place website.
For other inquiries, please contact the Friends Place team via info@friendsplacedc.org.



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