

GRAY PANTHERS OF SAN FRANCISCO



French protests against pension cuts.

**Pension Reform—Necessity or Theft
General Membership Meeting
Tuesday, April 19, 12:30—3:00 PM
Unitarian Universalist Center
1187 Franklin (near Geary)
Bring a snack and your activist stories to share**

GRAY PANTHERS COMMITTEE MEETINGS & EVENTS

All meetings and events take place at 1182 Market, Rm. 203, unless otherwise noted.

**Board Meeting 12:30 PM
Wednesday, April 6 & May 4**

**Health Committee 1:00 PM
Tuesday, April 12 & May 10**

**Newsletter Committee 12:00 Noon
Thursday, April 7 & May 5**

**Program Committee 1:00 PM
Wednesday, April 13 & May 11**

**Civil/Human Rights Comm. 12:30 PM
Monday, April 11 & May 9**

**Book Club 10:30 AM
Monday, April 25 & May 30**

March Meeting—Hooray for Women

We had a great March meeting celebrating International Women's Day and Women's History Month. Thank you Patricia. The interesting panel on local women's activity groups included Marcia Peterzell from Community Living Campaign, Hilda Gomez of Women Inc. , Maria Luna and her excellent interpreter from Mujeres Unidas y Activas, and Judy Sahagan of OWL. After Barbara gave an update on our heroine, Lynne Stewart, the audience responded enthusiastically to an invitation to shout out the names of our individual heroines. What a thrilling assortment of American and international inspiring women! One of the issues discussed was the Domestic Workers Bill of Rights (CA AB889—Ammiano and Perez) which our network has endorsed. Domestic workers are primarily immigrant women, and are among the most isolated and vulnerable workforce in the state. The bill would extend equal rights to domestic workers for overtime pay, meal and rest break, a safe and healthy workplace, workers comp, paid sick days, paid vacations, cost of living wage increases—what other workers take for granted. For a fun questionnaire on women's history, which we did not have time for at the meeting, see Page 5.



Speak Out for Social Security

Eight volunteers showed up at the SAN office Friday, February 25 at the first planning session of the Social Security Speakers Bureau., eager to carry the torch for SS to any organization that would invite us. We already have nine speaking dates in March and April. Michael provided a comprehensive outline of the points we want to cover. Giuliana is working all out to find more groups for us to speak to. We will happily talk to anybody, but we really, really want to reach the under-fifty-year-olds and convince them Social Security *will* be there for them if they fight for it.

April Meeting—Pensions & More

Are pensions boring? Not if you are not getting one, or if your pension is under attack. Which it is. Coming up again on the ballot this year is another Adachi proposal and probably other pension-related initiatives. Who and what is behind all of this? What happened to CALPERS? Who is to blame? Join in a discussion with Kay Walker, SEIU activist, and others at our April meeting.

UDHR and Ammiano

Our Human Rights/Civil Liberties committee will meet with Assemblyman Tom Ammiano on April 8 to present our petitions with several hundred signatures asking him to take action to get the UDHR included in the state constitution.

Update on Muni and Clipper

May will be the last month Muni will sell paper Fast Passes. After that, you will need a Clipper Card to have a monthly pass. For more information, see our November, 2010 Newsletter, log on to www.clippercard.com or call 1-877-878-8883.

End of April National Conferences

The American Society on Aging meets in San Francisco the last week in April. The National Gray Panthers Board will take advantage of that conference to hold a Board meeting here at the same time, at the Pickwick Hotel at 85 Fifth Street (5th and Mission) April 29th through May 2nd.

On Saturday, April 30, there will be a fundraising event from four to seven PM at the Pickwick, honoring Carroll Estes, Mark Leno, and National Gray Panther Director Susan Murany. The \$50 contribution for this event will go to the financially strapped National Office.

Aristide Returns

After seven years in exile in South Africa, ex-President Jean-Bertrand Aristide returned to Haiti in late March. What will happen now?

Hail and Farewell

Rosalind Uran, longtime progressive and Gray Panther member, April 2, 1918—March 14, 2011

We Are All Wisconsin

Once again, the corporate media ignores or distorts the people's demonstrations. There was little coverage of the Feb 26th Wisconsin workers' siege of their capitol building which was estimated at 250,000 strong.. People in 50 states came out in solidarity to protect public workers and all workers' right to collective bargaining. The Chronicle reported a SF demonstration of 200 people! The Chron dropped a zero! We were there with 2,000-3,000 and more arriving as the day went on; speakers from unions, an airplane pilot, a retired public worker from Wisconsin, the president of the California Nurses Assoc. Tim Paulson of the SF Labor Council told us that union members traveled to Wisconsin to hold up the SF Labor Council banner in solidarity.



We will defeat this all-out attack on working people. Be prepared for another attack on workers pensions right here in SF. Public workers did not collapse the economy. No worker got a billion-dollar bailout. Insurance companies, not workers, are to blame for health-care's rising costs. Unions are our first line of defense. An injury to one is an injury to all. Fight back with Wisconsin!

Why Won't State Look at Taxing Rich?

The following Letter to the Editor appeared in the San Francisco Chronicle on February 20.

The Chronicle reported Wednesday that Minnesota Gov. Mark Dayton is proposing new taxes for the rich (top 5 percent) that would erase half of the state's \$6.2 billion deficit.

Why is our new Democratic governor not looking at the same solution to California's budget crisis? Until we have some elected officials who will risk talking taxes, to take from the top and provide services to the remaining 95 percent of us, we will continue to see our quality of life eroded. Shame on those who have the power to right the wrongs, but duck and cover for political expediency.

—Riva Enteen

Shut Them Down



The Obama Administration is planning a total of \$36 billion in loans to build more nuclear reactors. Included is a request to provide a \$4 billion loan guarantee for two new nuclear reactors to be built on the

Gulf Coast of Texas. We currently have 104 reactors in 31 states. Most of these plants are 40-50 years old. and as of 2010, 27 of these have had leaks of tritium. Many were built in the '70s. The Fukushima plant which exploded in Japan was 40 years old, and was also designed by General Electric. Corporations, Westinghouse, General Electric, Toshiba build nuclear plants around the globe and uniformly lie, rigging tests while spending millions in lobbying for more contracts. And these loans are uninsured, so when it all blows up we get the bill! Every time a nuclear plant has experienced a problem, if the news manages to leak we are told,. "There is no danger" Today the world is faced with the devastating possibilities of a nuclear meltdown. Billions of dollars in the pipeline for nuclear plants must be redirected to create jobs to build safe, renewable solar and wind energy.

There are two nuclear plants on the California coast, each with two reactors; Diablo Canyon, 1800 feet from a fault line, and San Onofre, close to four fault lines placing eleven million people in danger if a disaster should occur. These plants began operation in the mid '80s. In past years we have had four commercial experimental nuclear plants. All have been closed due to seismic issues or deemed not worthy of investment. PG&E is currently requesting a license renewal for Diablo even though they have not yet complied with updates to equipment in the plant. If the national NRC (Nuclear Regulatory Commission) grants PG&E a renewal, the state of California should refuse to do so! Thousands of people protested in Germany and France immediately after the nuclear disaster in Japan. The movement for worker rights is growing and the anti-nuclear movement is part of it.. We are in a transitional, transformational period of history. As Dennis Kucinich shouted to over 100,000 protesters who were gathered in Madison, "We Will Fight Back!"

People Rise Up Across The Middle East and North Africa



Egypt Successful Peoples' Uprising

Yemen

At the foot of the Saudi Arabian peninsula. Capital: Sanaa. U.S.-backed Sunni president Saleh, 30 years in power. Shiite rebels in the North. Currently pro-democracy groups like the major tribe, Hashed, and activists "People in Power" oppose Saleh. Iran and Saudi roles threaten regional stability.

Bahrain

Peninsula in Persian Gulf off Saudi Arabia; Capital Manama. Sunni Khalifa family rules a majority protesting Shiite population. Saudi Arabian troops aiding government; protesters being supported by Iran.. Site of a major U.S. naval base.

Oman

NE of Yemen, at mouth of Persian Gulf & Straits of Hormuz; Capital: Muscat. Sultan Qaboos gives grudging compromised legislative bicameral power unacceptable to placate pro-democracy anti-government protestors. Clashes in industrial Sohar with police. An Oman delegation mediates Iran three hiker case.

Libya

Between Algeria and Egypt. Capitol: Tripoli. No-fly zone between Tripoli and Benghazi and down to central Libya. Are we getting into a 3rd war? (duh) with our U.S. and European over-zealousness? Who authorized this?

Tunisia

Between Libya and Algeria; Capital: Tunis (ancient Carthage). French colonial rule ended 1956. Republic: President Ben Ali 23-year dictator now in exile; country in turmoil. Egypt-Tunisia Freedom Council formed for refugees from Libya.. Oil, textiles, agriculture main industries.

Algeria

Between Morocco and Libya/ Tunisia. Capital: Algiers. Republic: President Bouteflika. seeks 3rd term.. Pro-democracy rallies to scrap 1992 Emergency Law and housing injustices. Former French Colony; violence between police and pro-democracy demonstrators.

Talk to Your Kids About Social Security the last in a series

What do you answer when they say, “ I’ll never see a penny of it. It won’t be there for me?”

1) Economic answer: that is what some people want you to believe, and it is simply not true. The Social Security Trust Fund is worth \$25,000,000,000,000. That is \$2.5 trillion, not billion, not million, which will rise to \$4.3 trillion by 2024, even after paying their already-paid-for pensions to retiring Boomers. Social Security taxes are currently paid only on the first \$106,000 of income. If that cap were removed, and taxes paid on all earnings, that balance would continue to grow for the foreseeable future. There would be plenty of *your* money there for you. And between now and when you are old enough to collect as a senior, Social Security is a life insurance policy—if you die, your spouse and children collect—and a disability insurance policy. It is a traveling pension, it belongs to you wherever you work, and you can’t outlive it. It keeps coming as long as you live.

2) Political answer: that depends on you. You have to demand that the money you set aside each paycheck—FICA—for your retirement comes back to you when you need it. Ever since Social Security was enacted in 1935 as part of the New Deal social net, greedy private interests have tried to get their hands on its funds. Over and over again, the American people have indignantly defeated those efforts of Wall Street. The general public has repeatedly and successfully insisted that Social Security money be used as intended—for government, guaranteed pensions. But you (YOU) have to fight for this. YOU have to let your representatives know, in no uncertain terms, that you won’t sit passively by and let your money be stolen from you. Join us in fighting for your future..

**In the past year we have seen
oil, coal, and nuclear disasters
End Fossil fuels
Fund
Alternative
Energy**



Test Your Women’s History I.Q.

1. Which mother led a march of child workers from the mills of Pennsylvania to Pres. Theodore Roosevelt’s vacation home on Long Island?

2. She took her job as First Lady seriously, gathering information about concerns of workers, children, minorities and the poor? Who was this activist wife of a president?

3. Before the 1960s, farm workers in the US had nobody to fight for their rights. What part did Dolores Huerta play in changing this?

4. One of the most important Union spies during the Civil War was an ex-slave black woman. Can you name her?

5. Who was the last reigning Hawaiian monarch, deposed when American business and military interests wanted to annex Hawaii to the US?

6. She opened Hull House in a rundown Chicago neighborhood, a community center to improve conditions for poor immigrants, inspiring hundreds of other settlement houses. Who was she?

7. Her 1939 Easter Sunday Concert on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial drew a crowd of 75,000. Who was she and why was she singing there?

8. She is regarded as the greatest American-born ballerina. Her Father was chief of the Osage Indians. Can you name her?

9. Who is considered the mother of the environmental movement and why?

10. Daughter and Granddaughter of Paiute Indian Chiefs from Nevada, she lectured extensively on the hardships brought on Native Americans by the US Government. Who was she?

1. Mary Harris “Mother” Jones. 2. Eleanor Roosevelt. 3. Dolores Huerta, co-founded the United Farm Workers in 1962 . 4. Harriet Tubman. 5. Queen Liliuokalani. 6. Jane Addams. 7. Marion Anderson, who had been barred by the DAR from Washington Constitution Hall because she was black. 8. Maria Tallchief. 9. Rachel Carson 10. Sarah Winnemucca

Gray Panthers of SF

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We believe ALL people are
entitled to certain fundamental
rights:

meaningful employment
economic security
decent and affordable housing
quality health care
a life of dignity from birth to
death free from fear and abuse
a world in peace



Age and Youth in Action

Call the office for membership information.

Labor Donated

APRIL 2011

Actions and Events

Friday, April 1, Noon—2:00 PM

St. Stupid's Day Parade
Meet at Justin Herman/Embarcadero Plaza with
costumes/signs/silly attitudes & march to "Stations
of Stupid" incl. Sock Exchange & Bankers Heart

Monday, April 4, 3:00—7:00 PM

National Day of Action, called by AFL-CIO
in honor of MLK, assassinated, April 4, 1968
fighting for workers rights, SF Labor Council
Rally & March, 3 PM Union Square March
6 PM Rally, Justin Herman Plaza, foot of Market

Saturday, April 9, 10:00 AM—6:00 PM &

Sunday, April 10, 11:00—5:00 PM
Anarchist Bookfair, booths, books, speakers, talks
Café, County Fair Building, 9th Ave/Lincoln

Saturday, April 9, 6:00—9:00 PM

Ending the Afghan War, an Evening with Malalai
Joya "bravest woman in Afghanistan" Recept, 6,
Program, 7, St. John Church, 15th/Julian between
Mission/Valencia. \$10-25, no one turned away

Sunday, April 10, 11:00 Am—3:00 PM

Rally against the Wars at Home (against working
people) and Abroad. Bring Troops Home NOW!
Assemble at Dolores Park @ 11, March @ 1:30

Thursday, April 14, 9:00—Noon

SAN Monthly Meeting, Unitarian Universalist
Center, 1187 Franklin/Geary, Lunch \$2.00

Saturday, April 16, 7:00—10:00 PM

"Will the Real Terrorist Please Stand Up?" doc
by Saul Landau re long time US/CIA attempts to
overturn the Cuban Government, Brava Theatre,
2781 24th Street \$15.

Saturday, April 23, 10:00 AM—7:00 PM

Earth Day Educational Concert/Festival, 3 stages,
workshops, booths, Civic Center Plaza

Saturday, April 30, 10:00 AM—12 Noon

Barbara Kennelly, Nat. Committee to Preserve
Social Security, on saving Social Security. Lower
Level, Rm. A, St. Mary's Cathedral, 1111 Gough.