

# GRAY PANTHERS OF SAN FRANCISCO

## DEFEND LABOR



**General Membership Meeting**  
**Tuesday, June 21, 12:30—3:00 PM**  
with representatives from MUNI and Local 10  
**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, June 1 & July 6**

**Civil/Human Rights Comm. 12:30 PM**  
**Tuesday, June 7 & July 12**

**Newsletter Committee 12:00 Noon**  
**Thursday, June 2 & July 7**

**Program Committee 1:00 PM**  
**Wednesday, June 8 & July 13**

**Health, Healthcare, Environment Com.**  
**1:00 PM Monday, June 6 & July 4**

**Book Club 10:30 AM**  
**Monday, June 27 & July 25**

## May Meeting “Violations”

Our Human Rights Committee Players presented a dramatization, *Violations*, about how the Bill of Rights is being ignored. Specifically discussed were the 1st, 4th, 6th, and 8th amendments. First the amendment was read. Then the laws enabling the government to ignore that amendment were described. Finally specific government acts contravening that amendment in the name of homeland security were cited. A lively discussion followed.

Ann Ginger of the Meiklejohn Civil Liberties Institute spoke eloquently on the positive ways cities can use the UDHR and the treaties which have been signed under its impetus to heighten awareness and compliance with them. On September 14, 2010, the governor signed ACR 129 requiring the state of California to publicize the text and treaties and report on the local enforcement thereof to the UN. We urge the San Francisco Human Rights Commission to take these actions.

(Page 3 contains information from the meeting)



## 40 Years of Activism

Some 50 Gray Panthers and friends joined in the celebratory finale of our 40th year at the Pickwick Hotel on April 30. Honored with Social Justice awards from our National Gray Panthers Board were: Charlotte Flynn, Carroll Estes, Susan Murany and Mark Leno. Charlotte is a longtime Gray Panther from Austin Texas—convener there in 1980, National GP Chair from 1991-1997. Carroll was Maggie’s student and friend, founder of the Institute for Health and Aging at UCSF, local and national leader in the field. Susan is the retiring executive director of the National GP. Mark was honored for his work for Single Payer and SB 810. All were enthusiastically hailed, we had a jolly good time, and raised a respectable amount of

## June Meeting

Labor unions under attack. What do we do? In June we will try to separate fact from fiction and perhaps plan actions as we hear from representatives from two local unions: MUNI, under ongoing media assault, and Local 10 of the ILWU, currently being sued by the Pacific Maritime Association, because of the dockworkers’ closure of SF and Oakland ports on April 4 in “We Are One” solidarity with the Madison workers.

What do we do? Stand up! Fight back! Join us for a lively June meeting.

## Come Join Our New Health, Healthcare & Environment Committee

We encourage everyone to join our new committee. As the name change indicates, the work of the committee will be broadened. Issues of health, healthcare, and the environment are changing quickly, and we need to be informed and proactive. With your active participation, this new committee will be exciting and important.

Committee members will gather, discuss, and distribute information and suggest actions and activities for the Gray Panthers. Suggested ideas for our work include Single Payer, local hospital issues, access to healthcare, and preserving Medicare. Environmental issues could include food and water safety, learning and educating about how unsustainable environmental practices affect our health.

Come to the first meeting on June 6 to help shape our focus and set up the committee. Info: M. Lyon, 215-7575, mlyon01@comcast.net, Lisa Fromer 826-5334, efromer@care2.com

## Panthers March May 1



# The Suppression and Criminalization of Dissent

## Enabling laws

**The USA Patriot Act – October 2001** Officially titled The Uniting and Strengthening America by Providing Appropriate Tools Required to Intercept and Obstruct Terrorism Act. 342 pages.

**Foreign Intelligence and Surveillance Act (FISA) – 1978.** Allows government wiretaps in *foreign* intelligence operations. All hearings conducted in secret.

**FISA II (FAA) – 2008.** Nearly unlimited power to monitor and share international communications of US citizens.

**Animal Enterprise Terrorist Act (AETA) – 2006** Equates lawful protests with domestic terrorism.

**Military Commissions Act – 2006** Allows the government to label anyone an “enemy combatant” with no due process to challenge such labeling.

## Enforcement Bodies

The Department of Homeland Security established by executive order as a cabinet department in 2002, includes the Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services.

**CIA**

**FBI**

**Secret Service**

**State and local police forces**

**US Army Intelligence and Security Command (INSCOM)**

**Airport Guard (No-fly list)**

**National Security Council (Kill list)**

**National Guard**

## Definitions Of Terms

*Domestic Terrorism* (AETA definition): Acts dangerous to human life if they appear meant to influence the policy of the government by intimidation or coercion.

*Habeas Corpus*: The right to challenge your detention in civilian court. (Article 1 of the Constitution)

*Due Process*, the Sixth Amendment: the right to a trial by an impartial jury; the right to be informed of the nature and cause of the accusation; to be confronted with witnesses; to have the assistance of counsel.

*Cui Bono*: Who benefits?

*Ex Post Facto*: Being accused of a criminal act before a law was passed making the act a crime.

## Terrorists ?



Whether it be by a Joseph McCarthy, Neo-Cons, Tea Party, FBI or CIA, a climate of fear is first projected to manipulate peoples' emotions

and reactions. Terrorists are often created, and when they are no longer needed, they are taken out. The Rosenbergs were falsely accused for giving the secret of the A bomb to the Soviet Union. Their execution paved the way for McCarthyism, an anti-communist climate, and the long, cold war.

The CIA recruited bin Laden to create and lead the Mujahadeen and rid Afghanistan of the Soviets. In a BBC documentary, *The Power of Nightmares*, evidence is cited that Neo-Conservatives invented al-Qaeda to unite and inspire their followers. The Bush regime then used the constant threat of al-Qaeda attacks - any time, any where – Orange Alerts -Red Alerts - Mushroom clouds.

## Who Decides?

If a “Dirty Bomber” with explosives in his shoes is a terrorist, is not the US Government 1800s placement of smallpox bacteria in the blankets of Native Americans a terrorist act? Were the Palmer Raids of the 1920s acts of terror? COINTELPRO raids of the 1960s? Homeland Security? the Patriot Act? Secure Communities?

The *SF Bay Guardian* reports that SFPD cops assigned under the Joint Terrorism Task Force of the FBI spied on people without any evidence of crime. In 2010, the FBI more than doubled the number of persons in the US it targeted with National Security Letters. Meanwhile, the number of electronic and physical unwarranted searches under the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act increased by thirteen percent.

**Stay out of fear, remain vigilant, unintimidated, and stop the invasive violations of our rights.**

## Seniors in Honduras

*On June 28, 2009, the army of Honduras carried out a coup against President Zelaya. Previously he had attempted to form an alliance with President Hugo Chavez of Venezuela which was opposed by the army. The pretext for the coup was that President Zelaya had called for a referendum for a constituent assembly. Officially the Obama administration rejected the coup, but accepted the militarily-imposed election on November 27, 2009, which was boycotted by supporters of Zelaya and the unions.*

In Honduras, the Grandmothers and Grandfathers Resistance Front was formed by men and women with a long experience in life. We conversed with five of them:

Jose Fernando Espinal Zavala is 72 years old. Yolanda Chavarria Aguilar is 82 years old and was elected Coordinator. Dionisia Diaz is 75 years old and is Sub-Coordinator. Carlos Fabian Molina Maerinez is 75 years old. Justo Pastor Mondragon is 65 years old and the “young kid” in the group.

Yolanda and Dionisia have been the most visible in the struggle against the coup. They march in every demonstration under the hot sun, facing the clubs and gas of the police. They are fighting for the Refoundation of Honduras and for the Peoples Resistance to take power.

There are many men and women of the “Third Age” who risk their bodies daily so that the beautiful country of Honduras achieves justice. Two days before the Grandmothers and Grandfathers Resistance Front was founded, young girls and boys formed their own Front consisting of some 20 children. The Peoples Resistance Front had its First National Congress on February 27th with 586 delegates, representing more than one hundred peoples organizations.

“They are trying to take away everything we won in the strike of 1954,” says Dionisia Diaz. “The mules of the United Fruit company were treated better when they got sick. But workers were beaten or when they became sick were sent on the heap. We were worse than slaves and that’s why the workers went on strike,” says the grandmother with indignation who compares the anti-people

policies of the current regime with her years in the banana zone.

Five years ago, the FAO of the United Nations issued a report that unless the government took measures, the number of deaths resulting from hunger would rise from 15 to 30 a day.

Each of the five veterans of these struggles told us how they survive, like most Hondurans of the “Third Age” on \$100-\$200 a month. This is a country where the basic food basket is estimated at \$450 a month, where the cost of electricity has risen 100%, and the prices of beans and corn, which are the basic diet in Honduras, are beyond the reach of the poor.

by Dick Emanuelsson  
Translated by Earl Gilman

## Single Payer– Hurrah for Vermont

Governor Shumlin of Vermont signed a health care bill approving a universal, government run health-care system for the state and setting up a five-member board to work out details thereof, including coverage and financing.

California SB 810 (Leno’s Single Payer) sets up a universal government run healthcare system complete with operation details but not covering financing. So, Vermont is the first state to enact single payer in principle, but when we get SB 810 passed and signed, we will have enacted single payer in all details, except financing. California will introduce a second bill on financing. Vermont’s healthcare report will include proposals on financing. In both states that will be the next big fight, and it won’t be easy!

Maggie Says



## How and What Will Our Children Learn

School boards infiltrated by right-wing ideologues are forcing people's histories out of classrooms. Since the infamous No Child Left Behind Act—which also included a hidden clause allowing military recruiters to grab lists of student names—nearly 71% of schools districts have reduced classroom time on studying history, and also cut time for art and music. Some states plan to remove world history as a high-school graduation requirement! And, four of five students do not have a basic understanding of civics. Public schools funds shrink and for-profit, subsidized, privatized charter schools proliferate.

**Attacks on Ethnic Studies** A people's history, art, music, and language are the components of their culture. On April 26, hundreds of supporters jammed into the Tucson school governing board meeting to protest a resolution stating that Mexican American Studies (MAS) courses would no longer qualify as core-curriculum requirements. To delay passage of the resolution, and minutes before the board members took their seats for the controversial meeting, nine Tucson Ethnic Studies/MAS students chained themselves to the school board members' chairs and demanded the resolution's withdrawal. MAS educators have challenged the constitutionality of a state law targeting ethnic studies and a federal law suit also has been filed.

**State of Emergency** California teachers across the state have rallied and protested cuts to education. At a week-long vigil in Sacramento, 27 teachers, including CTA President David Sanchez, were arrested for refusing to leave the capital. Jeff Freitas, California Federation of Teachers, said, "We intend to make it known to local voters which legislators are failing to support public education. CFT calls upon the Legislature to approve the Governor's tax extensions and a 1% surtax on the richest 1% of Californians. Students are not getting the support they need, while millionaires and billionaires are pocketing a \$9 billion per year federal tax break." In San Diego, 2,500 rallied; 6,000 teachers, parents, firefighters, and community members rallied in Pershing Square in LA; and over 3,000 rallied here in SF.

**Time to Wisconsin California!**

## Whistle Blowing Is Patriotic

Bradley Manning, a 22-year-old Army intelligence analyst, faces decades in prison for *allegedly* sharing a video with WikiLeaks of a US helicopter attack that killed 11 civilians and wounded two children in Baghdad. Bradley has been held in solitary confinement for months under such inhumane conditions that State Department spokesman Crowley called Manning's treatment "ridiculous, counterproductive and stupid." Crowley later "resigned."



Among constitutional amendments breached: the right to a speedy trial, the right not to be subjected to cruel and unusual punishment.

Should criminal thugs who kill civilians and laugh about it have the run of the US Army while courageous whistleblowers suffer? Will that enhance US prestige abroad and security at home? Bradley could be the brother, son, or grandson of any of us. Free Bradley Manning!

Eighty billion tax dollars were spent in 2010 to supposedly keep us safe and secure. The total intelligence budget has doubled since 2001. What do we get for our money? A Secret Service agent can walk into a classroom and accuse a 13-year old boy of a threat to the President, because of his concern expressed on Facebook that a suicide bomber might attack President Obama. Interrogation took place without the consent or presence of his mother. Each year, the FBI contacts thousands of innocent individuals, harassed because of their political or ethnic identities.

The 1917 Espionage Act is being used in an attempt to imprison whistleblower Thomas Drake for 35 years. His crimes: pointing out NSA's waste of \$1.5 billion on a surveillance program given to an outside defense contractor rather than a less expensive one already developed, which incidentally protected the identity of Americans. He also anonymously informed Congressional committees about NSA mistakes surrounding 9/11. Drake and many other whistleblowers provide access to information necessary for a public check on infringement of our right to know.

## Gray Panthers of SF

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meaningful employment  
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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

**JUNE 2011**

## Actions and Events

### Wednesday, June 1—Sunday, June 19

Mythos Gallery presents “Looking Past Seeing Through,” painters of the San Francisco and Berkeley Renaissance including GP David Young Allen. 1747 Solano Ave. Berkeley  
Call for gallery times: 510-528-4291

### Wednesday, June 1, 7:30 PM

“Capitalism, Crisis, and Utopian Aspirations” with Sasha Lilley, author and KPFA “against the grain” host, Station 40, 3030B 16th Street/Mission

### Thursday, June 9, 10:00 AM

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

### Thursday, June 9, 1:00 PM

CARA CAT monthly meeting.  
ILWU Headquarters, 1188 Franklin/Geary

### Tuesday, June 14, 7:30-9:30 PM

“Zapatista Spring, Anatomy of a Rebel Water Project and the Lessons of International Solidarity,” talk & book launch with author Ramor Ryan, Station 40, 3030B 16th Street/ Mission

### Wednesday, June 15, 6:00 PM

SF Living Wage Coalition Meeting, to build a grassroots movement of low-wage workers/allies to win economic justice.  
2940 16th Street/Mission (Redstone Building)

### Thursday, June 16, 8:00—10:00 AM

Protest America’s Health Insurance Plans Convention. How insurers plan to “save” Medicare  
Moscone Center, info 215-7575

### Sunday, June 26, 9:45 PM-1:45 PM

March to support gay hero/alleged Wikileaker Bradley Manning at SF Pride. Meet @ Starbucks, Jackson & Drumm 9:45 then to Ferry Building with Bradley Manning Support Contingent

