

GRAY PANTHERS OF SAN FRANCISCO



SAVE RENT-CONTROLLED HOUSING IN PARKMERCED!

General Membership Meeting
Tuesday, July 19, 12:30—3:00 PM
with Dean Preston of Tenants Together
And Parkmerced Action Coalition
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, July 6 & August 3

Civil/Human Rights Comm. 12:30 PM
Tuesday, July 12 & August 9

Newsletter Committee 12:00 Noon
Thursday, August 4

Program Committee 1:00 PM
Wednesday, July 13 & August 10

Health, Healthcare, Environment Com.
Info: call 215-7575

Book Club 10:30 AM
Monday, July 25 & August 29

What We Learned at the June Meeting

Ex-Muni driver and GP member Jim Smith presented a different picture than you get from the mainstream media of the contract being forced on MUNI employees by binding arbitration.

Last Fall's business-sponsored, Wisconsin-style Proposition G has forced MUNI drivers into a contract they had rejected by a 2-1 margin.

7.5% of full-time drivers could be replaced by part-timers with greatly reduced pay and benefits. MUNI would cut 3,300 driving hours each week in mid-day, night, and weekend runs, while still bringing in downtown business's customers and workers. Other people including seniors and hotel and restaurant workers need transportation early in the morning, all day and late at night, which would be the hours cut.

Drivers would lose their 40-year right to protest dangerously stressful schedules on health and safety grounds. They could no longer protest unsafe equipment. This puts the public in danger, particularly in cases of unreliable or grabby brakes, or malfunctioning doors and chair lifts, or fatigued drivers. Drivers would no longer have input into investigation of accidents. Instead of fixing unsafe schedules or equipment, MUNI could just blame the driver, and go on as before.

Marcus from !LWU Local 10 reported on the suits filed against them by the Pacific Maritime Association meant to punish them for their work stoppage in support of Wisconsin workers.

Organized labor and the community are mobilizing in support of Local 10 and its long-time tradition of job actions in defense of the working class all over the world. Our network is part of that support. *An Injury To One Is An Injury To All!*

We are now enrolled in the Cole Hardware Community Partnership Program. Ask the cashier to post your purchases to our ID 21453. Cole gives us 10% of all purchases at any Cole Hardware:

956 Cole St

3312 Mission

70 Fourth St

2254 Polk St

July Meeting

What? Demolish 1500 units of rent-controlled housing? Whoa! In July, we will meet with Dean Preston of Tenants Together and representatives from Parkmerced Action Coalition tenants group to discuss the proposed demolition of rent-controlled housing and building of high rise apartments there by an out-of-town developer, how the process has evolved, and what tenants are doing to stop it.

We might also tackle the whole question of affordable housing in SF. Are we getting the housing built that we need? Who will get to live in the City in the future? Who decides? Will we have any say?

Article 25 of the UDHR (see p.4 Thanks, Tom) states: Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his family, including...housing...

No Meeting in August

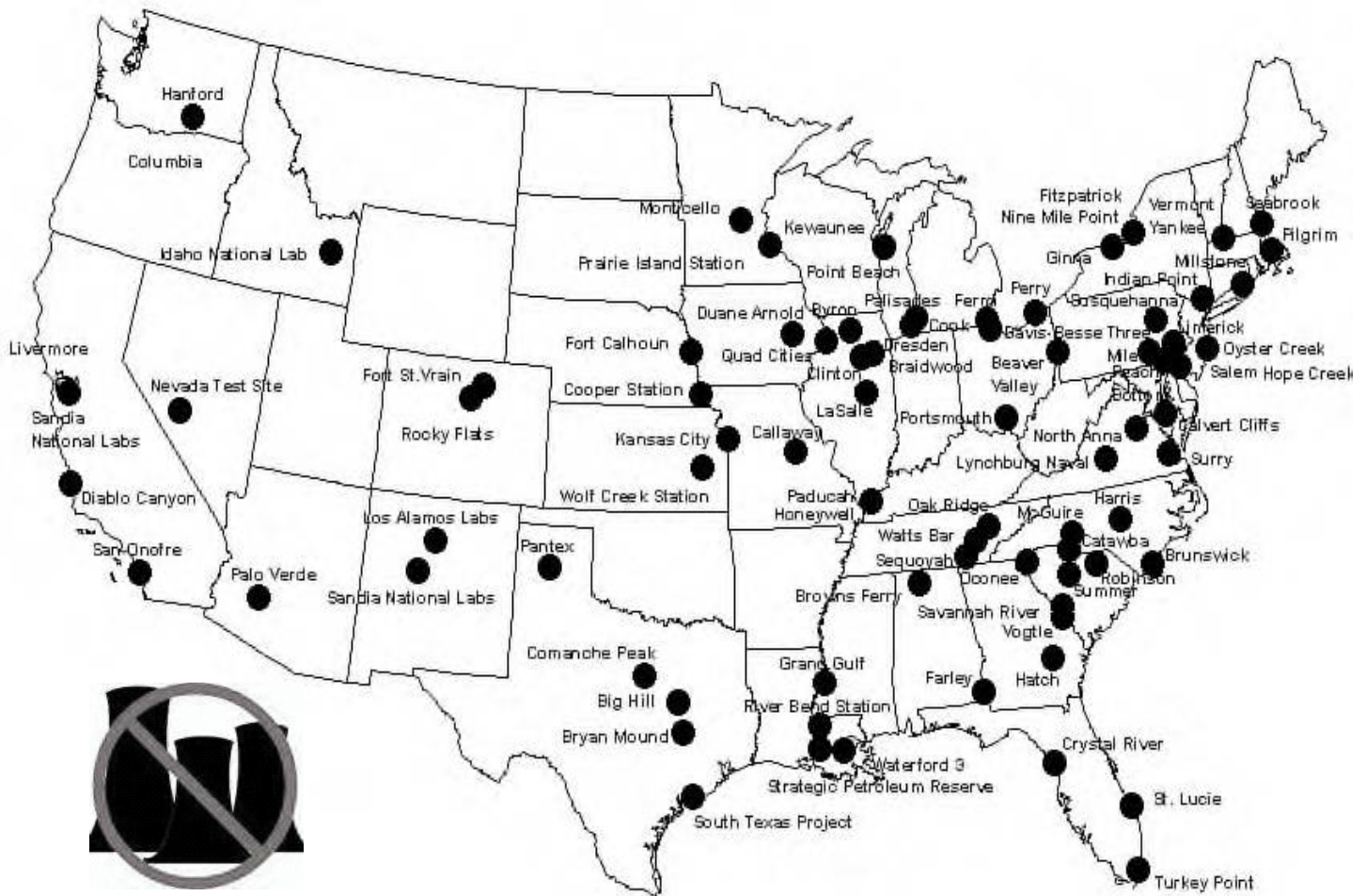
Summer Vacation! It has been our custom for the past few years to gather for a picnic with the Mime Troupe. This year we will meet Sunday, August 21st, 2:00 PM (Music at 1:30) at Yerba Buena Gardens Mission and 3rd Streets. The program is *2012 - The Musical*. Hope to see you.



Gray Panther Networks Meet

Representatives from Marin, Berkeley, Long Beach and SF members Michael, Sonja, Denise, and Patricia met in Berkeley. A report by Jim Dawson assured us our national GP office will continue even with the loss of some paid staff. A national monthly electronic newsletter is being considered. Michael reported on the CA budget, SB 810 status, and the June 16 demo against the national insurance convention in SF. A discussion of Michelle Alexander's *The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration*, resulted in a proposal that California networks take up the issue of mass incarceration. The Berkeley and SF networks are considering a joint meeting on that topic.

US Nuclear Power Plants and Nuclear Labs



These Truths We Know

Nuclear power plants have a contingent relationship with nuclear weapons in the nuclear fuel cycle; can't have one without the other. The US has 5,113 active nuclear warheads. Nuclear accidents, tritium leaks, system failures, aging plants with inadequate power backups occur all too often and are not revealed to the public. Plants waste billions of gallons of water, a precious resource. Most of that water is necessary to cool the spent rods and avoid a meltdown. Many plants, like Diablo Canyon, sit on active fault lines or in flood areas as two plants in Missouri now. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has no plan in the event of an environmental catastrophe like the recent earthquake in Japan. Yet NRC Chair Jaczko appeared before Congress after the Fukushima disaster and said not to worry, it can't happen here. NRC then extended the license for a 40-year-old twin of the Fukushima plant in Vermont, which repeatedly leaks radioactive fluid.

NRC granted license extensions to 63 other 40-year-old plants similar in design to Fukushima. The NRC is legendary in its lack of regulation and doing the bidding the nuclear industry.

The Obama Administration plans a \$56 billion loan guarantee to the nuclear industry to build more nuclear reactors including a \$4 billion loan for two new nuclear reactors to be built on the Gulf Coast of Texas by *Tokyo Electric!*

What Can We Do?

Demonstrate in the streets as did people in Japan, Germany, Italy and Switzerland, to force closure of all current or future nuclear reactor plants.
Repeal the 1957 Price-Anderson Act limiting liability of plant operators in case of disasters.
Demand immediate closure and dismantling of all US nuclear plants.
Redirect all nuclear-energy funds into sustainable energy controlled by a public community.

People of Vermont Say No

Vermont's state legislature, supported by Governor Shumlin and Senator Bernie Sanders, voted to close its Yankee nuclear plant by March 2012 when its license expires. This action was precipitated by the discovery of levels of tritium three times the federal limit in a monitored water well. The tritium was leaking from the Yankee plant. The NRC had granted a 20-year renewal. Energy Corp, owner of Yankee, has initiated a law suit against Vermont.

In 1983, the U.S. Supreme Court decided in PG&E's favor in its suit against a California law that said no new reactors could be built here until the nation had a permanent radioactive waste disposal site. There are four nuclear reactors on the California coast and two at Diablo Canyon within 1800 ft. of a fault line, two at San Onofre near Interstate Highway 5 near four fault lines and surrounded by eleven million people in danger if a disaster occurred. PGE has asked for renewal of the Diablo license to operate, with no requirement for inspections or corrections. PGE plans to pass along the \$85 million tab to us. Like Vermont, we must say: no renewing only dismantling!

Thank you, Tom Ammino

Five members of the GP Civil Liberties/Human Rights Committee met with our Assemblymember Tom Ammiano to present petitions, signed by several hundred people, urging him to sponsor including the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in the California State Constitution. Several years ago, when Ammiano was SF supervisor, at our instigation he spearheaded the ratification of the UDHR by the city of SF. Our meeting was very cordial and led to a fruitful discussion of how his office could help us promote our UDHR and other educational civil liberties programs in the schools. We also thanked him for his support of the Domestic Workers' Rights Bill.

Members who have been involved with our schools, we need your help. Join us at our next committee meeting, Tuesday, July 12, 12:30 in the office, to work out how to increase our participation in civics programs in the schools.

Patriot Act—Alas

Our May membership meeting discussed the Patriot Act and the many ways its various provisions violates the first ten amendments to the Constitution—the Bill of Rights. The sense of the ensuing discussion was to urge Congress not to extend the three of its provisions due to expire this year. Unfortunately Congress didn't listen and passed a four-year extension. In the House, 153 representatives voted against the extension. In the Senate, twenty-three Senators voted against. To our distress, Senator Boxer was not one of them. Let her office know how disappointed you are that she did not stand up and be counted for civil liberties

The Peoples Budget

The Congressional Progressive Caucus is a group of 78 Democratic representatives chaired by Keith Ellison of Minnesota and Raul Grijalva of Arizona. Its Peoples Budget includes:

Military spending: Cuts of more than one trillion dollars including 20-30% cuts in manpower, 20% cuts in Navy fleet, reducing the nuclear weapons stockpile, curtailing the military space and missiles programs, and canceling development of new weapons technology.

Progressive Taxation: raising income taxes to 45% for incomes of one million to 10 million dollars, 47% on incomes between 20 and 100 million dollars, 29% above one million, and including dividends and capital gains as part of personal income. Reinstating estate taxes to 45% on estates greater than 3.5 million dollars and 65% on estates greater than 500 million dollars. Tax corporate income earned abroad as it is earned. Leverage fee on financial transactions. Repeal of tax preferences for oil, gas and coal producers. Restoration of the superfund tax on industry for toxic waste cleanup. Public Investment for job creation and infrastructure maintenance, education, health, safety net programs, and the environment.

And lots more.

Sounds good to us.

Justice at Guantanamo?

"Military justice is to justice what military music is to music."

Georges Clemenceau

FLOW: For the Love of Water
This is a DVD available in Libraries

In 1997, the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund combined with multi-national corporations to form the World Water Council. They are planning the corporate take-over of water, which has always been a public resource. Their plan would lead to a 2020 in which half of the world's population will be without free access to water. Bolivia was the beginning. In 1997, Bolivia's water was privatized by the World Bank with promises of improvements for all. Actually, 208,000 people (poor, thus considered expendable) were arbitrarily cut off from water. Bolivians revolted against this. With the progressive leadership of Evo Morales, water is no longer privatized but a secured right for the people.

For immense profit, the World Bank lends huge amounts of money for dams to be built—destroying our planet. Already the Nile, Yellow, and Colorado rivers no longer flow freely to the sea. In the 20th century, 40 to 80 million people and their homes and monuments, have been displaced to build dams. They have no legal recourse—the World Bank cannot be sued. According to Maude Bellow in her book, *Blue Gold*, water is a \$400 billion global industry. In the US, \$100 billion is spent yearly on bottled water—usually found to be no purer than tap water.

Drinking water in the US is polluted by the annual use of 80 million pounds of Atrazine, a pesticide. Though Atrazine is manufactured by the Swiss, the entire European Union has banned its use because of a disturbing fact: it de-masculinizes frogs and fish. Of course it also lowers human sperm count. However, the Bush administration made a deal with the manufacturing company—there has been no cut-back of its use in the US.

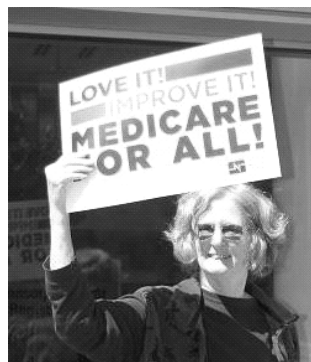
In India, South Africa, Thailand, Mexico, Ecuador, Argentina, and the US, people are fighting for water. In Michigan, Nestle gained a 99 year lease on some land for \$63,000 and started bottling water: 450 gallons a minute. Nestle sells bottled water under 70 different names. Concerned citizens sought and won a judgment against Nestle for this theft of water. However, Nestle appealed and was granted the right to continue pumping.

Positive news includes the use of an inexpensive way to clean water by light, now benefiting 300,000 people in India, and the ancient, viable technique of people trapping rain water as it falls. *FLOW* predicts that the 21st century will be a time when common people stand up and fight for the right of everyone to clean and accessible water.

P.S. About Plastic

In a previous issue, we commented on the Great Pacific Garbage Patch. Today just its Eastern section is twice the size of Texas. We discovered the response of American Industry in a new book, *Plastic: A Toxic Love Story* by Susan Freinkel. Today 600 billion pounds of plastic are manufactured each year. Our industries have made more plastic in the last decade than was made in the preceding 100 years. (We lived for thousands of years without plastic.)

End Private Healthcare Insurance!



Hundreds confronted the AHIP (America's Health Insurance Plans) convention, June 16 at Moscone Center and gave them a message, **“Keep your hands off Medicare!”** Our rally brought out a broad coalition of labor, community activist organizations, teachers, nurses, physicians, and messages from supportive politicians, including Ammanno and Leno. Youth from the Chinese Progressive Association told of their victory in stopping cuts to the Healthy Family program. Elders chanted with them “Ain't no power like the power of youth' cause the power of youth don't stop!” The rally ended with a street theater Punch and Judy takeoff with 12-foot puppets dueling it out in several boxing rounds. The Family Puppet defeated the Corporate Bully.

Memorable quote: *“Blue Shield is No Shield: Blue Cross is Double Cross!”*

Memorable parody of the civil rights song, *We Shall Overcome: We Shall Overcharge*, sung by faux AHIP representatives.

Gray Panthers of SF

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ADDRESS SERVICE
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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 **JULY/AUGUST 2011**

Actions and Events

Friday, July 1—Wednesday, August 4

The Underground Railroad, Songs of Hope and
Freedom exhibition, African American Center
Tribute to the 150th anniversary of the Civil War.
Main Library, 3rd Floor

Saturday, Sunday, Monday, July 2,3, & 4

2:00 PM (Music at 1:30)

Mime Troupe opening weekend
2012 The Musical, Dolores Park, 18th & Dolores.
Summer Schedule:info www.sfmt.org

Saturday, July 2—Sunday, July 31

2011 Labor Fest: for the whole month of July.
Info: www.laborfest.net, Laborfest@laborfest.net

Sunday, July 3, 1:00—3:00 PM

San Francisco Hotel Strike History Walking Tour.
Depart from cable-car turnaround, Powell/Market

Thursday, July 14, 10:00 AM

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

Thursday, July 14, 1:00 PM

CARA CAT Monthly meeting
ILWU Headquarters, 1188 Franklin/Geary

Saturday, July 16, 7:00 PM

Fukushima, Lessons of Nuclear Power, Report
from Japan labor/community activists, & author
Daniel Berman on role of the nuclear industry, &
Labor Folk Blues. Redstone Bldg, Mission & 16th

Monday, July 18, 7:00 PM

California & the Civil War, Slave, Wage, Free La-
bor, *A People's History of California 1769—1901*,
by Larry Shoup, Green Arcade, Market/Gough

Tuesday, July 19, 7:00 PM

Justice On Trial, 70-minute film on the case of
Mumia Abu-Jamal, with labor speakers.
Centro del Pueblo auditorium, 474 Valencia

