

GRAY PANTHERS OF SAN FRANCISCO

Mass Incarceration=New Jim Crow



*gang injunctions, torture, drug wars,
police murders, war on people of color,
and more!*

General Membership Meeting
Tuesday, September 20, 12:30—3:00 PM
Unitarian Universalist Center
1187 Franklin (near Geary)
Members of “All of Us or None” & “Critical Resistance”

GRAY PANTHERS COMMITTEE MEETINGS & EVENTS

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

Civil/Human Rights Comm. 11:00 AM
Wednesday, September 7 & October 12

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

Board Meeting 12:30 PM
Wednesday, September 7 & October 5

Program Committee 1:00 PM
Wednesday, September 14 & October 12

Newsletter Committee 12:00 Noon
Thursday, September 8 & October 6

Book Club 10:30 AM
Monday, September 26 & October 31

What We Learned at the July Meeting

In July, our membership meeting played host to residents of Park Merced who are protesting the proposed demolition of 2000 rent-controlled garden apartments and duplexes, to be replaced by up to 9000 hi-rise tower units. The out of town developers who won rebuilding approval in a 6/5 vote of the Board of Supervisors, promised continued rent control and first right of return to current residents. The tenants, many of them long term San Franciscans and seniors, remember only too well the development of the Fillmore with similar promises, all of them broken, and are appealing to all San Franciscans to help them keep their homes. Ways to fight back include ballot referendums, court challenge to the EIR (Environmental Reports) and civil disobedience. Stay tuned—this is by no means a done deal.

Social Security—76 Years Young



Hundreds of us celebrated Social Security—America’s most successful social insurance program—with a lively demonstration outside Senator Feinstein’s office to pressure her to commit unequivocally to opposing efforts to balance the budget by cutting Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid. Unfortunately, once again, neither the Senator nor her office staff welcomed us to her office, nor would talk to us. “We had worked for months to get a meeting with her,” said Michael Lyon, “And it was arranged we would finally be able to meet with her and urge her to make a statement.” But no dice. However: “Social Security is our right, we are not going to give up the fight.”

Volunteer Housing Needed

Jayne Tauzer, a student at UC Santa Cruz, wants to volunteer some time in October, November and December to our GP Human Rights Committee School Project, in exchange for a place to stay or a cheap rent. Does anyone have an extra room? Call Pilar Mejia, Chair of the School Project, if you do, or if you have any ideas. 415-412-3887

September Meeting

In September at our general meeting we will tackle the huge subject of mass incarceration, which has become the new Jim Crow, and which is enforced and supported by practices of prison torture, drug wars, police murders, gang injunctions and the criminalization of people of color. Joining us will be members of “All of Us or None,” a group working to eliminate discrimination against ex-offenders, and “Critical Resistance.” This should be an exciting meeting; hope you can come.

Town Hall Meeting

At the Town Hall meeting on Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid at the UU Church on August 24th, close to 200 people enthusiastically affirmed their support for those programs and urged our elected congresspeople to protect and expand them. Spokesmen for Nancy Pelosi and Jackie Speier pledged their support and criticized the Republicans in the House for attacking them. Nothing was said by the spokesmen, however, about the spineless compromising by the Democrats, but plenty was said by the audience, urging the Democrats to stand up and fight back and, among other things, get rid of the Supercommittee. Paul Kleyman, New America Media and an expert on elders, talked about the Supercommittee and how it would not overtly cut your benefits but might well use accounting tricks to accomplish the same thing. He quoted the late Gray Panther, Prof. Ted. Roszak saying that the test of a society is if policy improves quality of life, not the bottom line.

The highly successful Town Hall was the project of the June class at SAN’s Senior University and sponsored by SAN, Gray Panthers, CARA and Planning for Elders. We saw many Gray Panthers and Michael was one of the Chairpersons.



Presents

2012—*The Musical!*

Subtle as a hammer, outrageously funny, blatantly appealing to the baby boomers to return to their 60s idealism. IF you haven’t yet seen them this year, catch them Labor Day at Dolores Park.

SF Gray Panthers Resolution to the CARA Convention on Nuclear Power

Background: Nuclear accidents, tritium leaks and system failures occur all too often in aging plants. All power plants store spent nuclear fuel rods requiring billions of gallons of water. Each reactor in every plant makes 500 hundred pounds of plutonium a year with a half life of 24,400 years. There is no safe disposal of any nuclear waste. General Electric systems failed at Fukushima and those same systems exist in many of the 104 plants in the United States. More than 30,000 mishaps at US nuclear power plants occurred between 1979 at Three Mile Island and 2009. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has granted every license extension requested by owners of 40-year-old plants.

PG&E build Diablo Canyon four decades ago at two active faults. A recent inspection revealed 20 safety problems including a backup cooling pump failure. Emergency equipment was disabled for an 18-month period without operators or inspectors realization. One security system used to monitor the San Onofre nuclear plant stopped working on July 16, 2011. Diablo Canyon and San Onofre product 15.3% of California's energy. Lawrence Livermore Lab designs nuclear weapons.

Whereas: Diablo Canyon/San Onofre are located on fault lines near cities with large populations

Whereas: these plants and the NRC have no realistic plans for evacuation in case of an earthquake, a nuclear accident or a tsunami

Whereas: these plants store radioactive waste for which there is no safe or permanent disposal

Whereas risks of nuclear energy are catastrophic, environmental cost enormous, including damage to our land, air and water, and system failures are common

Therefore: we resolve that CPUC and CEC take these actions:

An independent commission not connected with NRC or nuclear corporations to plan the shutdown of Diablo Canyon, San Onofre and Livermore Lab with solutions for safe nuclear waste disposal;

The redirection of proposed \$56 billion for nuclear energy into development of wind, solar, and other sustainable energy sources.

The Anti-Nuclear Power Movement

Germany: proposes to switch off all nuclear plants by 2022.

Japan: cancelled plans to build 14 new nuclear plants. Japan has 17 nuclear plants providing around 30% of the nation's energy. Nihon Hidankyo, a Japan confederation of A- and H-bomb sufferers, has now questioned nuclear power plants. The mayors of both Hiroshima and Nagasaki have called for reviewing the nation's nuclear policy.

Italy: a national referendum voted to phase out nuclear power

Finland: the documentary film *Into Eternity* describes the folly of an underground facility being built in Finland meant to store nuclear waste for 100,000 years

United States: Vermont legislature votes to close down Yankee nuclear plant. Energy Corp, the company that runs Yankee, is suing the state to overturn that decision. California mounts a strong protest against extending the operating license for Diablo Canyon and trusting PG&E (!!!) to keep it safe. Call Senator Boxer's office and urge her to oppose licensing and support phasing out Diablo Canyon.

In the US, the government has continued to support the nuclear power industry, with insurance, loan and tax subsidies and lax oversight. Are we just blind? Bought off by the nuclear lobby? Inextricably tied to our nuclear weapons policies? Or all of the above?

And Locally

Livermore Conversion Project held ceremonies on August 6th & 9th to commemorate the anniversary of the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki and to call for a nuclear free world "Confronting the two-headed dragon of nuclear weapons and power."



Labor Day—Birth of the 8-Hour Day



Any progressive federal program or day of recognition is the result of a people uprising. Had it not been for labor strikes raging across the country in the 1880s and

1890s we would not have Labor Day today. Wages were low and workers endured 12-hour days filled with serious injuries while railroad-baron profits soared. Strikes by 100,000 railroad workers took place in dozens of cities. Half the country's freight was stopped in its tracks! National Guard troops went into every city to shut down the rebellion. In Chicago's Haymarket Square, May, 1885, workers demanded an 8-hour day. As police tried to shut it down, a bomb exploded. Though no evidence was conclusive as to who set the bomb, organizers were arrested, sentenced to death and hanged. Strikes continued, gaining momentum for the 8-hour work day.

By 1886 350,000 workers were on strike. Thousands marched in New York and Chicago where they stopped every railroad, paralyzed industry, and closed the stockyards. Pullman, Illinois, a company town near Chicago, built by George Pullman, president of the Pullman railroad sleeping car company, consisted of row houses for workers and Pullman's luxurious hotel. During the depression of 1893, Pullman laid off hundreds of employees and cut wages, but kept rents the same. Workers rebelled with a strike that stopped rail cars in and out of Chicago. Eugene V. Debs and the American Railway Union came to support Pullman workers. Railroad workers across the nation boycotted trains carrying Pullman cars. President Grover Cleveland declared the strike a federal crime and deployed 12,000 troops to break the strike. Violence erupted, and two men were killed. Hoping to appease outraged workers, President Cleveland agreed, just six days after his troops killed the Pullman strikers, to a national holiday to honor workers, the first Monday in September.

Labor Day must be remembered for the history of workers, not a day at the end of summer with picnics and platitudes from politicians.

Dump The Super Committee

This committee is a set up with only a lose-lose situation for everyone except the super wealthy. It is given the power to slash "discretionary spending" or all the programs the right-wing wishes to gut. It consists of 6 Republicans and 6 Democrats and must approve a bill (by at least 7 members) by November 23. Congress is then to pass that bill by December 23, an up or down vote-no discussion. If no bill is passed, automatically \$1.5 trillion more cuts over ten years are to be made in domestic and defense programs. This committee is part of the debt deal made during a manufactured crisis about the deficit. Do we trust any committee set up by bad dealers?

Where's *our* deal? This is war on poor and working-class people, no extended unemployment benefits to the 20 million unemployed, no closing of corporate loopholes—corporations generated \$1.6 trillion in profits in the last quarter alone of 2010—and no taxes on the rich, the fair-share source for new revenue.

Even after this debt deal and draconian cuts to social programs to satisfy our credit rating, S&P downgraded the US anyway! Now, interest rates will go up on those billions in loans to finance wars, put more money into the bankers' pockets and increase calls to cut Social Security, Medicare, education, etc. S&P has never admitted that the false AAA ratings that they gave to Wall Street's risky packages of mortgage-backed securities and collateralized debt obligations helped bring on this recession. Instead, the financial sector got a \$13 trillion-dollar bailout.



This "Super Congress" does not represent us. It is a ploy to eliminate the social programs we fought for over many decades. It is a bad deal. The deficit can be

reduced by taxes on the wealthy and ending corporate tax loop holes. Punish those responsible, not the rest of us. Demand that the "Super Congress" **b e a b o l i s h e d !**

“...corporations have been enthroned and an era of corruption in high places will follow, and the money power of the country will endeavor to prolong its reign by working on the prejudices of the people until all wealth is aggregated in a few hands and the Republic is destroyed.”

1864 letter from Abraham Lincoln.

Potential Federal Revenue Sources

Individual Wealth Tax:

Clorox CEO Donald Knauss—2010 compensation—\$8,200,000.00

Wells Fargo CFO Howard Atkins—2011 retirement—\$22,000,000.00

Wells Fargo CEO John Stumpf—2010 compensation—\$17,560,000.00

Goldman Sachs CEO Lloyd Blankfein—2010 compensation—\$19,000,000.00

PG&E CEO Peter Darbee—2011 retirement—\$34,800,000.00

Excess Profits Tax:

Exxon Mobil—1st quarter, 2011—\$10.7 billion

Chevron—1st quarter, 2011—\$6.2 billion

Dutch Shell—1st quarter, 2011—\$6.3 billion

Carried interest loophole at privately held partnerships—hedge funds—allows the income of fund managers to be taxed at the capital gains rate of 15% instead of the salary rate of 35%. According to the *San Francisco Chronicle*, July 20, 2011 “Changing how carried interest is taxed for just the top 25 hedge fund managers—who earned a combined \$22 billion in 2010—could raise billions.” Better yet, tax all capital gains at 35%, the way it used to be.

Top Military Spenders

The United States spends far more on the military than any other nation. Top military spender in 2009 in US dollars:

US: \$663 billion 2010—\$698 billion

China: \$99 billion 2010—\$119 billion

UK: \$69 billion 2010—\$59.6 billion

France: \$67 billion

Russia: \$61 billion

Germany: \$48 billion

Japan: \$47 billion

Source: Stockholm Int’l Peace Research Institute

But we can’t afford Medicare!

Caring Across Generations (CAG)

Bay Area CARE Congress

At least a thousand people joined together August 20th at Mission High as part of a nation-wide movement to launch a new campaign for quality home care. The aim was to form a community of those who need care at home and those who provide such care. Discussions were conducted in English and Spanish and signing, with translators at every table. The emphasis was on how to achieve the components of the Five Fingers of the Caring Hand, to wit:

(1): Create jobs. It is anticipated that the Direct Care Workforce will grow by some 2 million in the next several years as the population ages.

(2): Transform the quality of those jobs. Establish standards for health, safety, wages, insurance, the right to organize.

(3): Provide training and certification programs.

(4): Provide a path to citizenship.

(5): Support individuals and families—preserve and expand Medicare, Medicaid, Social Security, the Affordable Care Act, financial support, Social Security credits and family leave for family caregivers. Provide support to find, hire and manage care and to improve communications

Home care involves all ages, saves money and preserves the independence of individuals. Home care aides make aging at home possible by helping with activities of daily living, unlike home health aides who deliver skilled nursing services. Care aides are also often domestic workers. Training and good working conditions are a win-win situation for everyone. That solution is what the local CARE Councils organized by the Congresses like the one held Saturday will work to achieve.

San Francisco Gray Panthers was one of the many sponsors of the Bay Area CARE Congress. Present in support and to urge passage of the Domestic Workers Bill were Assemblyman Tom Ammiano and Supervisor Eric Mar. Also among the sponsors were the California Domestic Workers Coalition and Mujeres Unidas y Activas, both excellent sources for uniting those who need and those who provide. For more information contact Gordon Mar, Jobs with Justice. 415-994-2496 or James Chionsini, Planning for Elders, call 415-703-0188, ext 304.

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

ADDRESS SERVICE
REQUESTED

Call the office for membership information.

Labor Donated **SEPTEMBER 2011**

Actions and Events

Saturday, Sunday, Monday, September 3,4,& 5
2:00 PM (Music at 1:30)

Mime Troupe San Francisco closing weekend
2012 The Musical, Dolores Park, 18th & Dolores.

Wednesday, September 7, 7:00 PM

Report from Vermont's Single Payer Movement
from Single Payer Now organizers Don Bechler/
Lisa Mudd, ILWU Local 6 Hall, 255 9th Street

Thursday, September 8, 10:00 AM

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

Thursday, September 8, 1:00 PM

CARA CAT Monthly Meeting
!LWU Headquarters, 1188 Franklin/Geary

Sunday, September 11, 1:00—6:00 PM

9/11, Reclaiming the Truth, Reclaiming Our Future. Explore the truth of this traumatic event.
Film, Spoken work, Music, Art, Comedy, Action,
Dialogue, in solidarity with events in other cities.

Herbst Theatre, Veterans Bldg. 401 Van Ness
info: cbrouillet@igc.org

Thursday, September 15, 7:00—9:30 PM

Born on the Fourth of July, Film showing/talk/
video of Ron Kovic speaking at anti-war demo
2989 Mission Street, nr. 24th Street BART
ANSWER Coalition info: 415-821-6545
\$5-\$10 donation, no one turned away

Wednesday, September 21, 7:00—9:00 PM

*Zocalo in SF: How Do We Put The People Back in
The Initiative Process?* Can California's hundred-
year-old experiment with direct democracy be
saved? How? Panel of experts from California and
abroad. Fort Mason Center, GG Room in Bldg A,
Marina Blvd and Buchanan Street

Tuesday, September 27, 7:00—9:00 PM

Eve at Grace: An Evening with Eve Ensler at
Grace Cathedral as V-Day founder to end violence
against women talks about upcoming book. Grace
Cathedral, 1100 California Street.