

GRAY PANTHERS OF SAN FRANCISCO

Occupy the World

a progressive look at what's going on
with a special report on Chile



General Membership Meeting
Tuesday, November 15, 12:30—3:00 PM
Unitarian Universalist Center
1187 Franklin (near Geary)

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, November 2 & December 7

Civil/Human Rights Comm. 11:00 AM
Wednesday, November 9 & Dec 14

Newsletter Committee 12:00 Noon
Thursday, November 3 & December 8

Program Committee 1:00 PM
Wednesday, November 9 & Dec 14

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

Book Club 10:30 AM
Monday, November 27

October Meeting

It is a rare, very special meeting when the chair introduces the featured speaker with a song. The chair, Deetje, opened the meeting with a brief history of our anti-nuclear activities in the '70s and early '80s: opposition to porting the Missouri; Nuclear Free SF passed by huge majority; the 1981 two-week blockade of Diablo with 1,900 arrested. She ended with a song, turning the meeting over to Scott Yundt, of Tri-Valley Cares. He told us of the origin of the organization in 1983, as residents of Livermore decided to voice their concerns about, and opposition to, nuclear weapons and nuclear power. Since the lab's inception in 1952, over 1 million curies of radiation have been released. This is equal to the amount released at the bombing of Hiroshima in WWII. Lawrence Livermore Lab is one of the most contaminated places in the country and one of the first super fund clean-up sites.

Update on Fukushima

Over 100,000 people were evacuated from the disaster site. Seven months later, 1 out of 13 children tested show thyroid irregularities. Normal numbers are 1 in 1,000. All nuclear plants have been closed resulting in nationwide rolling blackouts. Thousands of people are demanding compensation for homes, businesses, lethal exposure. The nuclear company TEPCO, owners of the reactors, threatens not to compensate people unless it is allowed to start up power plants again. The Japanese people still hold huge demonstrations against nuclear power that are not covered by corporate media.

Our US nuclear plants, privately owned, are heavily subsidized with loans from the government, none of which have ever been paid back.. Defaults on those loans have never been penalized, unlike Solyndra. For more on California's nuclear plants, see Sept newsletter or www.graypantherssf.igc.org. People around the state are mobilizing with meetings like all-day teach-in, Dec 3, at SF State.

Deetje sang: (tune: Do, Re, Mi song) DOugh the corporations make/ RAdiation they don't care/ ME someone I'd like to save/ before the FALL-out hits the air/ SO the war machine must go!/ LAw's what we may have to break/ TEE-vee news we never make because we have not got the DOugh, etc.

November Meeting

Our November meeting will take a look at what is happening in some of our neighboring countries in Central and South America.

We will also have a report on the recent CARA convention (see Page 3) and we will discuss the Occupy movement, what it all means and what we think will happen next.



November 8 Ballot Propositions The Gray Panther Board Recommends:

- | | |
|----------------|----------------|
| A No recommend | E NO |
| B No Recommend | F No Recommend |
| C NO | G No Recommend |
| D NO | H NO |

Gray Panther Board Elections

The SF Gray Panthers will elect new Board of Director members at our December party. According to our bylaws, Board members are elected for a two year term and can serve two consecutive terms (I.e. four years) if re-elected before being termed out for at least a year. The Board determines policies and programs for our network and Board members are expected to take a leading role in network activities. Any paid up member is eligible for Board membership and can nominate any member, including oneself, for the Board by so informing the office.

Current ongoing members of the Board for 2012 are Marshall, Patricia, Barbara, Sandra and Sonia. Finishing their first two year term and eligible for a 2nd term are Ila, Ruthanne, Joanne, Lisa and Earl. Not eligible for the Board in 2012 because they have served two consecutive terms are Michael, Mitzi, and Deetje.

Fight Back for Civil Liberties

The SF Gray Panthers Civil Liberties Committee sponsored a reception for Stephen Downs and Jess Sundin on Saturday, October 15. Steve is an attorney from Albany New York who is legal counsel and spokesman for Project Salam (support and legal advocacy for Muslims) protesting government-promoted Islamophobia and repression against Islamic and Arabic communities in the name of anti-terrorism. Jess is an anti-war activist, one of 24 mid-westerners facing felony charges of conspiracy to aid and abet terrorism. In 2008 they were part of an anti-war demonstration at a Republican national convention. In September, 2010, the FBI broke into their homes looking for evidence of material support for organizations on the government's arbitrarily-declared terrorist list—like contributions to Muslim charities. They claim this is part of a country-wide effort to silence and criminalize the opposition to US military adventures abroad. (Is it? Remember the government attack on the anti-Vietnam War movement.)

Jeff Mackler brought us up to date on Lynne Stewart—people's lawyer case on appeal—and Mumia—death sentence struck down, a victory, but life sentence left standing. A speaker from the Bradley Manning support network reviewed his situation. The military had charged PFC Manning with aiding the enemy through indirect means by sharing thousands of classified cables with Wikileaks. He has been held for 16 months without a pre-trial hearing. Blowing the whistle on war crimes is not a crime. It is a heroic act.



SAN—Seniors and Disabled Cooperation

An overflow crowd at the UU Center on October 13 took steps to cement joint action by senior groups and disabled community organizations for common goals—protecting Social Security, expanding Medicare and MediCal, IHSS, Care Across Generations, Domestic Workers Rights, Adult Day Centers et al. Many Gray Panthers were there. Michael represented us on the speakers panel and headed the Medicare discussion group.

Campaign for a Healthy California

James Haslam from the Vermont Workers Center described to over 100 applauding Californians how Vermont became the first state to declare by law that *Healthcare is a Human Right*. Such a declaration is our goal with SB 810. In a state with less than 10% of the population of California that regularly sends Bernie Sanders to Congress, the organizers concentrated on door-to-door arguments that healthcare is a human right, that the government serves the people, that we can't let the politicians decide what is politically possible, but must insist on what we need—and they won. Of course now comes the even harder part of winning full benefits and financing, but they won the first huge step.

This was a kickoff meeting for the new statewide coordinating Campaign For a Healthy California, which will enfold all the Single Payer Now groups and concentrate on making it politically possible for everyone to have access to healthcare. Strongly supported by the California Nurses Association, the first action will be November 3rd at 11 AM with the Occupy movement, 101 Market, to demand Tax Wall Street Financial Transactions.

Report on CARA Convention

Michael Lyon and Sandra Mack represented the Gray Panthers of San Francisco at the 2011 convention of the California Alliance for Retired Americans (CARA), held in Long Beach on October 18 and 19. It was CARA's 8th annual convention and it reflected both CARA's vision and its ability to draw upon diversity and organization to advocate effectively. In just two days there were cogent presentations and panels that laid out a roadmap for action—protecting Social Security and Medicare, moving forward on universal health care, and getting serious about the appalling toll pedestrian accidents are taking on seniors.

The resolution submitted by Gray Panther's SF, "Protect California from Dangers of Nuclear Power Plants," was passed with overwhelming support. CARA also passed resolutions addressing capital punishment, workers' rights, campaign finance reform, a Gay Pride Month in senior centers, pedestrian safety, and immigration policy. Details will be available at our November General Membership Meeting.

We Are The 99 Percent!



Oct 25: A police-state force, 17 different police jurisdictions, attacked peaceful Occupy Oakland, and on Oct 26 Occupy SF received "subject to arrest notices."

More than 2,500 peaceful protesters have been arrested across the country. Why? This movement, prairie-firing across the country united people, ignited energy not seen for a long time. Wall Street became a symbol for unending wars, bank bail-outs, attacks on education, Social Security and Medicare, Occupy everywhere now focuses on all injustices. Major cities and every state in the US have an Occupy. On Global Day of Rage, Oct 15, Occupy Wall Street demonstrations took place in 1,500 cities around the globe, including over 100 cities in the United States. Los Angeles supervisors passed a resolution in support of Occupy LA. Nearly 1000 people had gathered for Occupy Oakland their first night, set up tents, one occupied by city council member Desley Brooks. Occupiers had renamed the plaza, "Oscar Grant Plaza". Occupy SF blocked a Wells Fargo entrance to protest foreclosures. Occupy protests call for divestment from BofA. We can all divest from corporate banks and invest in local credit unions.

JP Morgan Chase paid NYPD \$4.6 million just before the arrest of 700 people on the Brooklyn Bridge. Arrests are made, tents and supplies are confiscated, yet people keep showing up to take part in this new forum for democracy; general assemblies, decisions by consensus, and educationals by activists are held daily. This movement will not be bought out, co-opted or stopped. The real truth is that we the 99% don't need to be controlled by the 1%. We just need to redistribute the bounty.

Critics speak of a lack in specific demands, yet the very nature of these protests offer solutions to the crisis. People discuss new forms of economy and distribution of resources that will support people and are sustainable on the earth. Protesters have not joined together to work within failing systems or electoral politics, but to find other alternatives. This is what real democracy looks like; everyone contributing, putting forth ideas, participating in discussions, taking responsibility, building consensus. We may be on the long and winding road to revolution. **Occupy under attack! Fight Back!**

Stop Attacks on Occupy!

Occupy SF needs our support. General Assemblies at 6 PM daily, marches 3-5 PM every Saturday, book clubs, education circles 4 PM every Friday. Drop off ready-made and fresh food directly on site, blankets, umbrellas, sleeping pads, Clipper and BART cards, A, AA, AAA batteries. Provide housing, shower and laundry. Organize a teach-in, or workshop.

What can we Gray Panthers do?

occupysanfrancisco@gmail.com call 619-4378, and Just come by any time 101 Market
<http://www.occupysf.com/>



Lost My Job
Found an Occupation

Don't Steal
My Life!

I'll Believe Corporations
are people When Texas
Executes One!

This is the 2nd Time I
Fought for My Country
This is the First Time I
Know Who the Enemy Is!

Foreclose
Wells
Fargo!



Shut Down the SOA

The annual demonstration to close the School of the Americas (SOA) will be held November 18-20 at Fort Benning, Georgia. The official name of the SOA is now the Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation but the leopard has not changed its spots, it is still the Pentagon's training school for the Latin America military. Graduates of the SOA were heavily involved in all the US-financed Contra wars of the 80s and 90s against the peoples movement in Latin America—Chile, Peru, Argentina, Bolivia, El Salvador, Nicaragua, to name a few, including Honduras today.

Workers Pensions are Bankrupting the Country?

While you are looking at your ballot and Propositions C and D to cut City workers pensions, (vote NO on both), consider this:

Former Hewlett-Packard CEO Leo Apotheker, on the job for 11 months before being fired, will receive \$7.2 million based on this month's stock price—a \$25 million exit package.

Motorola Mobility Holdings is about to be bought by Google. If the deal goes through, CEO Sanjay Jha will get a golden parachute of nearly \$66 million, President Daniel Moloney, \$15.7 million.

Chevron made a second quarter—not even a whole year—profit of \$7.73 billion this year. Exxon made \$7.68 billion. Shell made \$8.66 billion. The US Treasury gave \$669 billion in bailout money to the top ten banks. Wells Fargo posted record third quarter earnings of \$4.06 billion.

Most retiring City employees will be lucky to get a “golden parachute” of \$30,000 a year.

Further proof of the Sociopathic Nature of Corporations

A September Sunday SF Chronicle reported a Good Week for Child Safety: “Legislation to keep the toxic chemical bisphenol A out of baby bottles and sippy cups finally passes—
against unrelenting industry opposition.”

Bank Bailout Greek Version

From the Washington Post: “More than half of the money loaned to Greece so far by the International Monetary Fund and European nations has gone to repay bond holders, a transfer of billions of dollars from tax payers around the world to European banks and pension funds that invested in the troubled Mediterranean nations.” About \$52 billion out of a total of \$91 billion has been used to repay bonds. European finance ministers are working on programs to bolster the health of the euro region's banks and boost the effective size of the European bailout fund.

Meanwhile further austerity programs are forced on a population already overwhelmed by drastic cuts to pensions, unemployment compensation and shredded social safety nets. The people of Greece answered with massive demonstrations and a continuing general strike.



Tri-Valley CARES Petition

In a follow-up to our October meeting, please sign their petition to clean up toxic & radioactive contamination at Livermore Lab.

“We call on the administration and Congress to adequately fund cleanup at Livermore Lab. We further call for cessation of activities that continue to pollute.”

Copies of the petition for you to distribute and sign are in the office!

Gray Panthers of San Francisco

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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 **NOVEMBER 2011**

Actions and Events

Tuesday, Nov 1—Wednesday, Nov 16

When I Grow Up, A Lifetime of Perspective by LGBT Elders, painting and photography by LGBT seniors including Gray Panthers, LGBT Community Center, 1800 Market Street. Free

Thursday, November 3, 11:00 AM

Tax Financial Transactions, March and Rally Gather at Occupy SF/Federal Reserve Bldg, 101 Market Street San Francisco

Thursday, November 10, 10:00 AM

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

Thursday, November 10, 1:00 PM

CARA CAT Monthly meeting
ILWU Headquarters, 1188 Franklin/Geary

Saturday, November 12, 2:30—4:30 PM

Ten Days That Shook The World film by Sergei Eisenstein for 94th Anniversary of Russian Revolution, 766 Valencia, 18th/19th 2nd Fl. Free

Sunday, November 13, 10:00 AM—7:00 PM

Earth At Risk, day-long Conference w/Arundhati Roy, Derrick Jensen, more, Wheeler Auditorium UC Berkeley. \$40/\$20 low income
info: www.earthatrisk.net

Wednesday, November 30, 6:00—8:00 PM

DIVE documentary film, favorite from 2011 Green Film Festival, about food wasted in landfills. Koret Auditorium, Public Library, 100 Larkin. Free
info:www.divethefilm.com Discussion afterwards

Saturday, December 3, 10:00 AM—4:00 PM

Fukushima, The Lessons of Nuclear Power and the Media, a day-long educational conference on the Fukushima melt-down, role of the media in coverage, how this crisis impacts development of nuclear power, and the education of the public. SF State University, Burk Hall 28, 1600 Halloway.
info: No Nukes Action website

