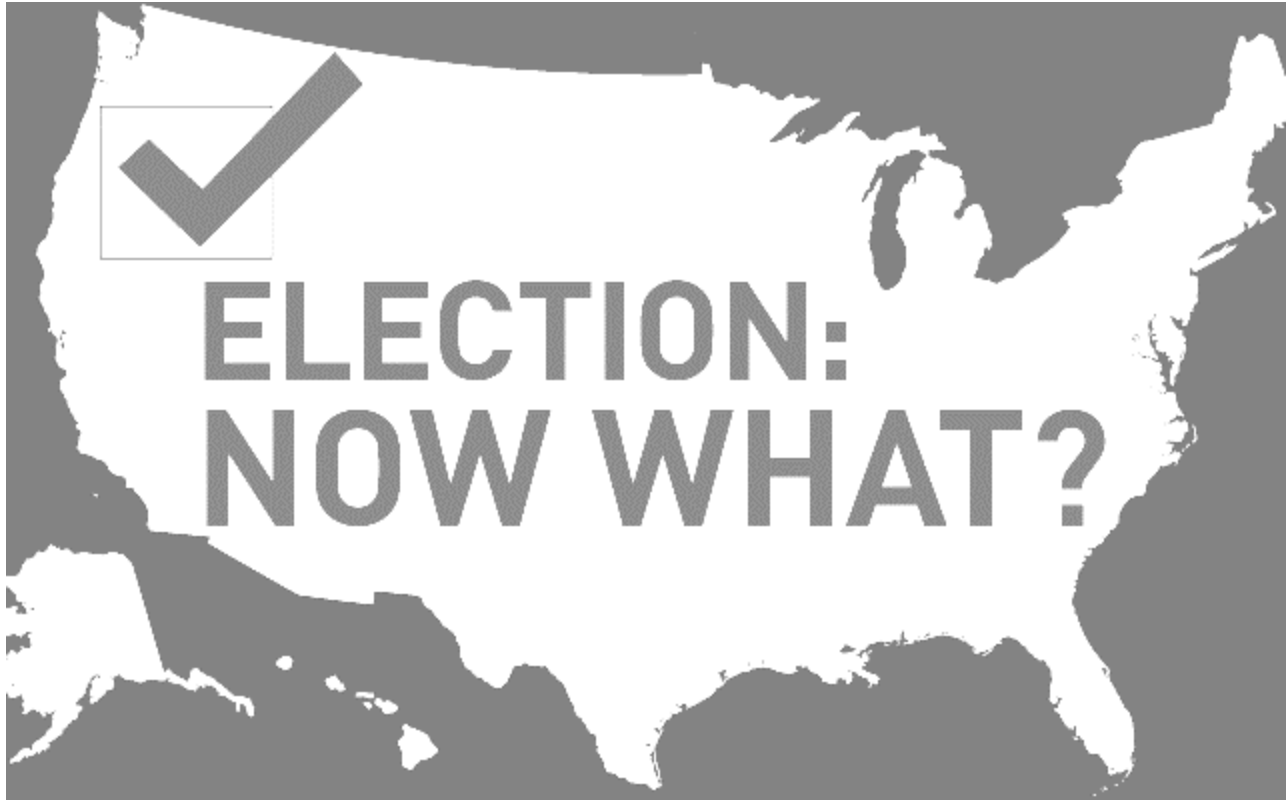


GRAY PANTHERS OF SAN FRANCISCO



Discussion of November Ballot Measures and *Recount*, a 2008 film on 2000 US Presidential Election

Tuesday, October 16, 2012, 12:30 PM

General Membership Meeting

Unitarian Universalist Center

1187 Franklin @ Geary

Bring a Snack to Share

GRAY PANTHERS MEETINGS

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

**Board Meeting, 12:30 PM
Wednesday, October 3, November 7**

**Newsletter Committee, Noon
Thursday, October 4, November 8**

**Civil/Human Rights Committee, Noon
Wednesday, October 10, November 14**

**Special Meeting: "Future of Medicare"
Saturday, October 20, 10AM-noon
Call 415-215-7575 for location**

**Book Club, 10:30 AM
Monday, October 29, November 26**

Our September Meeting

Bill Shields, Director of Community & Labor Studies at CCSF, gave us a thorough report on the crisis facing our community college. The threat from the Accrediting Commission for Community & Junior Colleges appears to be a political maneuver to privatize this valuable community resource. At present, a special trustee appointed by Mayor Lee has been given authority to make unilateral decisions about programs and cuts. This move at a recent Trustee Board meeting brought students out in a militant protest and take-over of the meeting. Labor and community organizations are uniting to save City College. See page 5 for a full report.

CARA Regional Convention

Sept. 20th, GPs boarded a bus with other CARA members on a ride to Burlingame for a full and enlightening day. Michael introduced a panel on Aging with Dignity with facts about current problems facing us and our desire to age in place. A panel on Taking Back our State in November gave detailed information on propositions especially a “sleeper” one, Prop 31. If passed, it increases the power of a governor to declare a fiscal emergency, institutes “pay as you go” legislation that necessitate cuts to programs, allows local governments to supercede state laws, and puts a cap on spending in 2014. Prop 33 also has some onerous inclusions. Join us at the October meeting for full disclosure of these measures & more discussion.

David wins a raffle!



Michael on panel



The CARA Board

Serious Michael and Margo



Elections: Then What?

Our October meeting will be more discussions on the propositions. We will also show the 2008 video “Recount,” a chronicle of the weeks after the 2000 election and the tumultuous recounts in Florida that changed the election by wholesale rejection of legitimate votes. Sound familiar?

Win for Save the People’s Post Offices

The SF Postmaster has taken three post offices off the closure list: Visitation Valley, Bayview and Civic Center. A victory for SF Save the People’s Post Office Coalition. In 2011, communities organized and packed public hearings to protest the closing of Bayview and Visitation Valley post offices. In June 2012, the coalition organized a rally and march of 200 people and occupied the Civic Center Post Office. As Dave Welsh of the National Assoc. of Letter Carriers says, “We must be vigilant. The big push to implement the slash-and-burn program will come after the election and in 2013. This movement needs to grow, and grow fast to stop the juggernaut. It’s up to us to mobilize our members and communities to see that this does not happen.”



For 8 years advocates have been proposing and calling for local clean energy investments that would benefit the community. And we have won—the Board of Supervisors voted approval for Clean Power SF despite opposition by PG&E!

8 Washington Update

As we reported in our September Newsletter, opponents of the 8 Washington luxury condo development on the city’s waterfront collected over 31,000 signatures for a referendum vote to overturn the Board of Supervisors’ approval increasing the height limit from 84 feet to 136 feet. A move to repeal that approval was defeated at the Supervisors meeting Sept. 4. So the referendum vote will be on the Nov. 5, 2013, city election ballot. Hooray! 8 Washington is stalled for at least another year.

Ballot Measures: Days Late: Dollars Short

GP Board Says

Prop A: City College Parcel Tax: Places a \$79 yearly tax on land parcels for 8 years to help fund City College. It has broad labor, community and educational support. It needs a 2/3 vote. Vote Yes!

Prop A YES

Prop B: Clean & Safe Neighborhood Parks: Bond to allow city to borrow \$195 million for the Park & Recreation Dept. Opponents object to Dept. practices of prohibitive fees, charging out-of-towners, and the trend to privatization.

Prop B NO

Prop C: Housing Fund Trust: General fund set-aside for affordable housing uses. A step in the right direction but woefully inadequate.

Prop C No Position

Prop E: Gross Receipts Tax: Replaces the payroll tax; may increase revenue \$28 million per year by increasing business license fees, but not corporate taxes.

Prop E No Position

Prop F: Water & Environmental Plan: Proposes a study of future water policy and possibility of removal of Hetch Hetchy dam. Too many questions.

Prop F No Position

Prop G: Policy Opposing Corporate Personhood: Non-binding public opinion.

Prop G YES

Prop 30: Temporay taxes to Fund Education, Guarantee Local Safety Funding Constitutional Amendment: AKA Governor’s Brown budget.

Prop 30 YES

Prop 31: State and Local Government: Rigid two-year, constitutional amendment. Opens door to spending caps on vital State programs.

Prop 31 NO

Prop32: Political Contributions by Payroll Deductions to Candidates: A major attack on unions, which are the only ones that use payroll deductions.

Prop 32 NO

Prop33: Auto Insurance Companies Prices Based on Driver’s History of Insurance Coverage: Funded by Mercury Insurance. A blatant excuse to raise rates.

Prop 33 NO

Pro 34: Death Penalty: Replaces the death penalty with life imprisonment without possibility of parole. A poor law but does end the death penalty.

Prop 34 YES

Prop35: Human Trafficking. Penalties: Increases existing penalties, expands punishment for a broad category of sex offenders.

Prop 35 No Position

Prop 36: Three Strikes Law. Repeat Felony Offenders. Penalties: Third strike must be a serious violent felony conviction before a life sentence is mandatory.

Prop 36 YES

Prop 37: Genetically Engineered Foods. Labeling: Labels GMO foods.

Prop 37 YES

Prop 38: Tax to Fund Education and Early Childhood Programs: The Molly Munger initiative. Gives school funding priority over all other social needs.

Prop 38 NO

Prop 39: Tax Treatment for Multi-state Businesses, Clean Energy & Energy Efficiency Funding: Requires multi-state businesses to pay taxes on sales in CA.

Prop 39 YES

Prop 40: Redistricting. State Senate Districts: Withdrawn as moot.

Prop 40 YES

SB 1186 Is a Bad Bill

SB 1186 will effectively roll back hard-won civil rights for people with disabilities by making it harder to enforce the civil rights guarantees of the Americans With Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA). Sponsored by State Senator Bob Dutton and Senate Pro Tem Darrell Steinber, SB 1186 was a response to questionable ADA-based lawsuits against businesses. The bill narrows the opportunity to settle a complaint before bringing a lawsuit, reduces the cash damages for incidents of disability discrimination in public accommodations, prohibits pre-litigation demands for money and requires attorneys to file copies of demand letters with the California Bar for review.

These disincentives to file lawsuits will effectively take the one tool (a court action) from people with disabilities that has consistently yielded results. On the positive side, the bill requires that money raised from building permits go to expanding the Certified Access Specialist Program (CASP). A small plus given the downsides.

Among the disability organizations opposing the legislation: The Disability Rights Education & Defense Fund (DREDF), Californians for Disability Rights (CDR), Disability Rights California (DRC) and the California Foundation for Independent Living Centers (CFILC). Three democratic Senators—Loni Hancock (9th dist.), Ellen Corbett (10th dist.) and Noreen Evans (2nd dist.)—voted against the bill.

It is wrong to punish the intended beneficiaries of civil rights guarantees because of a few opportunistic attorneys. That is what the regulatory agency, the State Bar, is for—to regulate and discipline attorneys and protect the public. Unfortunately this bill was passed by the legislature and Gov. Brown signed it into law on September 19.



Happy One Year Occupy!

NDAA—and the SF 99% Coalition

Our July newsletter described the attacks on civil liberties embodied in the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA). On July 29, the SF 99% Coalition sponsored a meeting at the UU Center on “Our Vanishing Civil Liberties,” highlighting how its provisions violate the Constitution. Those provisions allow the *military* to arrest, indefinitely detain, and deny a trial or a day in court to anyone accused of a belligerent act or any terror-related offense—as defined by the *military*.

This violates Article 1 of the Constitution (habeas corpus), the 1st Amendment (free speech and association), the 4th Amendment (unreasonable search & seizure), the 5th Amendment (due process), the 6th Amendment (right to challenge evidence and confront one’s accusers), the 14th Amendment (due process), and the Posse Comitatus Act (domestic deployment of the military). It gives the federal government unchecked power to silence critics, deny the right to trial, and override the presumption of innocence. It removes the courts part of our system of checks and balances from any participation. There is no definition of terrorism; any action can be labeled terrorist. The FBI and law-enforcement agencies have long treated peace, environment, and anti-tax actions as terrorism. Who are the real terrorists?

Nuclear Power in Japan—and California

After the Fukushima nuclear plant meltdown last year, Japan shut down all 50 nuclear reactors, leaving the country without nuclear-generated electricity for the first time since 1970. Despite huge protests, two reactors at the Ohi nuclear power station were restarted in July. In Tokyo hundreds of thousands of people have repeatedly demonstrated against nuclear power, demanding its total abandonment and accusing the government regulators of collusion with the plant operators.

In California, San Onofre has been shut down since January because of damage to tubes carrying radioactive water. Southern California runs the plant and spent at least \$165,000,000 trying to correct the malfunctioning and pay for replacing power. An estimated \$25,000,000 is needed to restart 1 of 2 units shut down. (Environmentalists call San Onofre a disaster in the making.)

Let People Vote!



Michael Perez AP

Today's voter ID laws attempt to bring back the poll taxes of the Old South. The NAACP estimates a quarter of African-Americans don't have documentation to meet new voter ID laws. The League of Women Voters declares, "This is the most significant cutback in voting rights in decades."

Karl Rove, the Republicans' far-right handyman, said, "If their [black voters'] share of the turnout drops just one point in North Carolina, Mr. Obama's 2008 winning margin there is wiped out 2-1/2 times over." Rove's American Crossroads, a tax-exempt, *non-profit*, 501(c)(4), funds the growth of voter ID laws. Supposedly, this rash of ID laws is to eliminate voter fraud. But fraud is practically non-existent—1 in 15 million prospective voters. Most fraud charges involve election officials tampering with election results or problems with absentee ballots.

The first voter ID laws were passed in 2003. In 2011, 34 states introduced bills requiring voters to show photo ID. Now 16 states require photo ID, which disproportionately affects young people, seniors, people of color, the disabled and the poor. The U.S. Department of Justice has denied as discriminatory South Carolina's request for pre-clearance of its voter ID law, as the state's minority voters are 20% more likely than white voters to lack photo ID. On Aug 30, a federal court struck down a Texas law requiring government-issued photo ID for eligibility to vote in November. The Justice Dept. continues to stop these racist laws.

Don't forget the day the Supreme Court thwarted the rights of voters in 2004 by stopping the vote count in Florida—then *selecting* George Bush as President. Now, Tea Party-packed state legislatures want to suppress our rights even further.

The Voting Rights Act of 1965 was signed into law after years of civil rights actions across the country. People died for the right to vote. And, we strive for the day when we can exercise our vote for progressive changes.

We Are All City College!

Even after forced cutbacks of \$25 million from loss in state funding, CCSF still serves 90,000 students from all parts of the city. Its objectives are to provide lifetime education at minimum cost and offer non-credit courses for free, rather than act as a junior college focusing *only* on job training and college degrees. CCSF is a tremendous bargain improving the whole community's quality of life.

After 6 years of meeting expectations required by the Western Accrediting Commission for Community & Junior Colleges, an independent professional group set up to judge how institutions meet educational norms, the Commission placed CCSF in "Show Cause" status—the most severe negative rating. The Commission requires a status report by Oct 15; if corrections are not made by March 15, CCSF would face closure and possible bankruptcy with a loss of accreditation by June 2013.

To alleviate the financial crisis, CCSF already turned away 10,000 students, cut teachers' pay and benefits—especially health and retirement, cut out 150 classes, and gutted its Life-Long Learning Program which affects many seniors. The Commission insists that CCSF needs more administrators and fewer part-time instructors and cuts to their pay. It calls for implementation of the "Student Success Initiative," which includes standardized testing à la "No Student Left Behind," emphasizes job training rather than learning goals, and cuts non-credit courses (which include ESL, most "Adult Education" and community outreach courses). Goodbye to San Francisco values.

AFT 2121 and SEIU 2012, the teachers' and support personnel unions, are fighting the recommendations as a political attack, an attempt to impose a top-down administration, to force the employees to pay for the economic crisis, and to turn a life-long community asset into a limited diploma mill.

The passage of city Prop A and state Prop 30 will alleviate some of the financial pain of City College. VOTE YES ON A! (See page 3 for more info.)


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 **October 2012**

Actions and Events

On-Going, through October 14,
Yerba Buena Center Exhibition of Occupy Bay
Area posters, 701 Mission/3rd

Thursday, October 4, 6 PM-9 PM
People Above Corporations Super-Party at Global Exchange, Tour, Refreshments, Updates, Music, Dancing, Prizes, 2017 Mission , 2nd Floor

Saturday, October 6, 12 Noon-3 PM
11th Anniversary of US/NATO Occupation of Afghanistan, Rally at Powell & Market , March to Grand Hyatt to support Local 2 hotel workers. ANSWER Coalition. 821-6545

Saturday, October 6, 2-5 PM
Anti-Colonial Anti-Capitalist March & Rally
Rally at Justin Herman Plaza, March thru the financial district. Part of a West Coast Action.

Thursday, October 11, 10 AM
Senior and Disability Action (formerly SAN and PECC) UU Center, 1187 Franklin/Geary

Thursday, October 11, 1 PM-3 PM
CARA SF CAT meeting, ILWU Headquarters, 1188 Franklin/Geary

Thursday, October 11, 7-9:30 PM
“Bitter Seeds” movie, sponsored by Food First, final night of a documentary about an Indian village at the center of farmer suicides. Roxie Theatre, 3117 16th Street

Saturday, October 20, 10 AM - Noon
“The Future of Medicare,” with Calif. Nurses Association health policy expert Michael Lighty. Co-sponsoring with OWL and others. Call 415-215-7575 for location.

Mon-Sat through Oct 23, “When I Grow Up”
Art Exhibit at LGBT Center, 1800 Market
Includes art of GP David Allen

