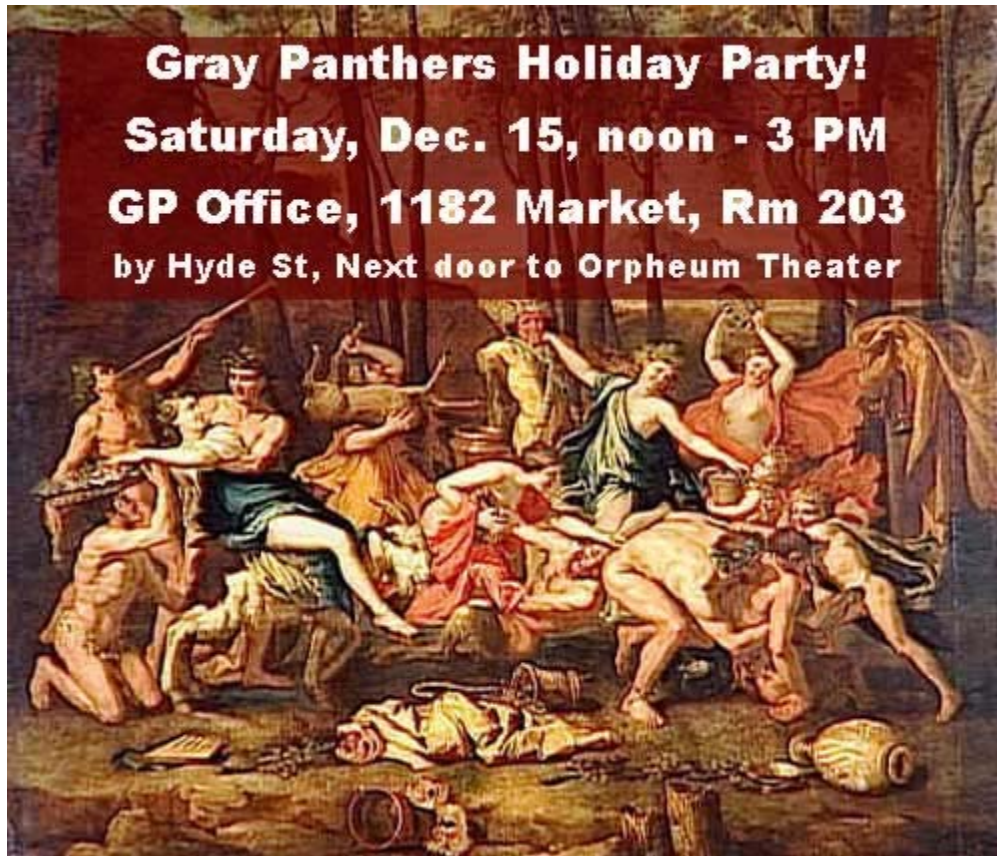


GRAY PANTHERS OF SAN FRANCISCO



GRAY PANTHER HOLIDAY PARTY!

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 15

Noon to 3PM

Our Famous Traditional Potluck

Bring Your Favorite Goodies!

GRAY PANTHERS COMMITTEE MEETINGS & EVENTS

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

Board Meeting December 5, and January 2, at 12:30PM

**Civil Liberties Human Rights Comm.
January 9. 12:30 PM**

**Newsletter Committee December 6 and
January 3, 12:00 Noon**

**Book Club December meeting postponed
to January 7, and January 28, 10:30 AM**

Come to our UDHR Presentation December 10th, 2PM, City Hall

Our November Meeting

Guest speaker Alan Benjamin, Executive Committee member of SF Labor Council, suggested that the Gray Panthers can be the catalyst to spark a strong fight against the threatened bipartisan deficit reduction madness. Alan reviewed the background of how the administration and congress put us into this “Fiscal Cliff” mentality and sparked an active discussion on a proposed plan of action. He explained why the proposals Democrats have put on the table to reach an agreement with the Republicans are just a back door method to start gutting our safety net programs. (See more on **No Grand Bargain!** page 3)



Patricia Jackson was featured in a Nov 13 SF Chronicle article on the LGBT youth and elders Intergenerational Project she facilitates. In a 5-

week series of workshops, youth recorded elders’ stories, some of which aired on KALW and are archived by the National StoryCorps in the Library of Congress.

Donations to Community Thrift

We collected and delivered donations to Community Thrift on Valencia for credit to our account, #111. One donor who was looking for a place to donate items called after reading about our fundraiser in the newsletter. Thanks everybody! We will do this again. Also, you can take items on your own.

Hail and Farewell

Marge Lee, our long-time GP member, died on Nov. 14. We will sorely miss her and especially her contributions to our Civil Liberties Committee. Memorial service will be announced.

Our comrade and labor leader, Howard Wallace, died Nov. 14. Memorial will be Jan. 6, 2-4pm, at ILWU Local 34, 4 Berry St.

Marge and Howard [*¡Presente!*](#)

Our Annual Holiday Party Decembers 15 Noon-3PM

We celebrate our annual winter holiday together with pot luck and discussions of what lies ahead. Come to the office early, if you can, and help set up. Join in the fun from Noon to 3PM.

It’s Not Only A Party

Our SF GP Board of Directors for 2013 will be elected at our party as stated in our by-laws which allow up to 25 members. Current Board Members are Ila, Joanne, Earl, Ruthanne, David, Denise, Caty, & Harriet. Nominated so far are Michael, Patricia, Sonia, Adela, Candace, Jack, Lynn, Lisa, and Kathleen. Board members must be paid-up members. More nominations may be made by mail, email, or phone to any Board member, and will remain open until we vote at the December party!

UDHR Reading on City Hall Steps

December 10 is International Human Rights Day. The U.S. signed the Universal Declaration of Human Rights on Dec 10, 1948. The Seventh-Grade Leadership Class from Everett Middle School will celebrate with a reading of the UDHR on the steps of City Hall, 2PM. This commemoration was organized by the Civil Liberties Committee, especially Barbara, Pilar and our intern, Jayme. On Nov 8, committee members Barbara, Pilar, Mitzi, David and Jayme met with Mr. Gardiner’s class to present our UDHR program. The idea for the City Hall presentation was a direct result of our visit to the class. Be sure to come and applaud the UDHR, the students, and our GP committee.

UDHR and Mapuche

Apropos UDHR, the Mapuche activists demand the Chilean government adhere to International Labor Organization (ILO) Convention 169 which protects the rights of indigenous people: an end to the use of protected witnesses in Mapuche cases; an end to raids on Mapuche communities; and the release of all political prisoners; and the return of indigenous lands to the communities.

**ALERT ! New date CARA Flash Mob
Friday, Dec 7 11:30 Federal Bldg, 7th & Mission**

No Grand Bargain!

In 2005, Gray Panthers initiated a coalition called Hands Off Social Security (HOSS) to stop the Bush administration from privatizing our Social Security. We are calling again for a mobilization to stop the “Grand Bargain.” On Nov. 26, the SF Labor Council passed unanimously our resolution *No Grand Bargain: Protect Social Security Medicare & Medicaid*. With bipartisan, backdoor meetings the *Republicrats* are using the *deficit cliff* as a subterfuge for cutting Medicare, Medicaid, Social Security, other social and educational programs. Some of the behind closed doors agreements include a White House nod to cut at least \$250 billion from Medicare in the next 10 years, another \$800 billion in the following decade.

Although Social Security has not contributed a cent to the deficit, and the Social Security Trust Fund is entirely solvent through 2038, the “Grand Bargainers” have discussed lowering benefits by raising the retirement age, changing the COLA formula using CPI, which increases at an even slower rate than the current inflation adjustment and would cut benefits for current and future retirees affecting younger beneficiaries, veterans and women. Obama only offered his meager tax increase because of people’s anger at the 1% control of our money and Occupy’s call to us, the 99%. Republicans idea of a tax reform means keeping the Bush tax cuts. But if those tax cuts expire at the end of this year, deficit crisis would be solved by a projected revenue of \$39 trillion over the next decade!



Uniting in a broad coalition will raise awareness about real crisis and open discussions of solutions—an oil tax, a war profits tax, a financial transaction tax, a return to taxing the 1% at the 91% rate, and cutting the military budget— which is double from 10 years ago. We need to push labor leaders into mobilizing their membership; join with youth groups and give them the truth about Social Security for their future.

GPs Host Meeting On CPMC Expansion

Gray Panthers and OWL recently hosted a successful meeting on how CPMC’s plans for expansion would drive up health prices for all City residents and for City workers.

We replayed and discussed City Healthcare Purchaser Catherine Dodd’s testimony at a SF Supervisor’s hearing on how CPMC’s expansion plans would give Sutter-CPMC a dominance in the healthcare marketplace that would allow it to significantly raise its prices, and give other healthcare providers an opportunity to raise their prices also. Sutter’s dominance of other Northern California healthcare markets has raised Northern California hospital revenues per patient per day to be 56% above those in Southern California. (See <http://tinyurl.com/a8jksrt>)

Obamacare makes healthcare cost increases inevitable by locking in insurance and drug companies, but Obamacare claims it will *reduce* costs by consolidating healthcare, and setting up *Accountable Care Organizations*, ACOs, powerful groupings of hospitals, doctor groups, and insurance companies that would receive a set payment per year per patient covered. Since the payment to the ACO is pre-set, the profit incentive is to provide little care, supposedly reducing healthcare costs. But as the case with Sutter shows, as healthcare groups consolidate and grab a bigger market share, healthcare costs go up, not down.

Catherine Dodd showed how this works out in SF: CPMC hospitals and clinics are joined with Brown & Toland Medical Group to form one ACO; and UCSF Hospitals and Clinics are joined with the Hill doctors group to form another ACO. Each group is trying to achieve dominance over the other. The winner will raise its prices, and the loser will raise its prices to a little below the winner’s. Since doctors can only be in one group, patients will pay expensive out-of-network charges if they need to see a doctor in the other group, say because their health worsens or their employer changes ACOs.

Using market mechanisms to streamline healthcare and reduce costs leads to a machine that tears itself apart and us with it. Get profits out of healthcare!

Speak Truth To Power

Spanish Judge Baltasar Garzon has joined Michael Ratner of the Center for Constitutional Rights (CCR) on the legal defense team of Julian Assange of Wikileaks. In June, 2012, Assange sought and was given asylum in Ecuador's London Embassy to avoid extradition to Sweden for alleged sexual misconduct. Assange fears that extradition to Sweden will promptly lead to extradition to the US where he will be prosecuted under the 1917 Espionage and Sedition Act. In view of what has happened to whistleblower Bradley Manning, Assange is not willing to trust US justice to protect investigative journalists.

Garzon is the Spanish judge who became famous for using universal jurisdiction over crimes against humanity to issue an international arrest warrant against Chile's Augusto Pinochet. When he started looking at the crimes of the Franco regime, the right in Spain got him suspended on charges of exceeding his authority in a wiretap order. Punishment for trying to expose Franco history? One of Wikileaks' reports concerns US efforts to block Garzon's looking at US responsibility for torture.

Michael Ratner is president emeritus of CCR. He and CCR are US counsel for Julian Assange.

GP Attends WALL Meeting

The War and Law League (WALL) sponsored a forum, Nov. 11, on war and military actions by the U.S. since WWII. The premise – such actions are illegal since they were declared by the executive branch, not the Congress. Article 1 of the Constitution says “the Congress shall have Power...to declare War.” The claim- we should abolish all war initiated by presidents. The discussion panel included Medea Benjamin of Code Pink, peace mom Cindy Sheehan, and David Swanson, a Washington D.C. blogger. The emphasis was on the illegalities of war since 9/11 and especially today on US drone warfare and on curtailing the imperial presidency.

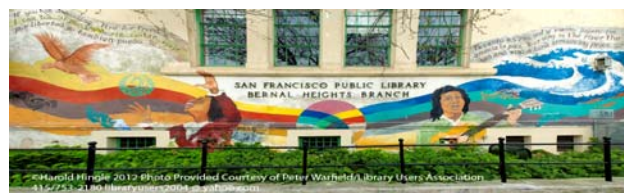
Chile and Mapuche

Our November Newsletter reported the painting over of the mural about Chile that was on three sides of the Bernal Heights Library. That mural included references to the Mapuche indigenous population of Chile. Today in Chile the Mapuche are threatened and persecuted by the government of President Sebastian Pinera much the same way as did Pinochet.

The Mapuche are an ancient indigenous people in southern Chile who matched the powerful Incas over centuries and kept hold of their various territories. The Spanish tried in vain to enslave them. Once Chile was independent from Spain it finally overwhelmed the long Mapuche resistance in the effort called “Pacification of Araucania.” This process in the late 1800s destroyed Mapuche agricultural and trading economies and created a system of *Reducciones*, similar to US Indian reservations.

Since the overthrow of the Pinochet government in Chile the Mapuche have been struggling to reclaim their territory, their language, their agricultural and horticultural skills adapted over the years to Chile's incredibly varied terrain, and their own specific culture. The current Chilean government has resisted these efforts by increasingly militarizing areas, including such actions as army and helicopter attacks on the community of Temucucui. Protests on the ground led to the arrests of some of the protesters and widespread hunger strikes in Concepcion and Temuco in support of the arrested Mapuche. Subsequently, four men were convicted of killing a police officer. In October, the Chilean Superior Court annulled the murder charge due to “irregularities in the trial.” The Court left standing accusations of possessing arms and mandated a new trial.

Much of the information in this article was reported online by the Unrepresented Nations and Peoples Organization. Painting over the Bernal Heights mural about Chile under Pinochet is part of the selective re-writing of history.



Just Say No To GMO!

Though Monsanto, PepsiCo, Coca-Cola, Kraft, Kellogg, General Mills, DuPont, Bayer and other food and pesticide companies put out \$46 million of lies to defeat Prop 37, thousands of people learned about the dangers of GMO foods. Over 10,000 volunteers joined Yes on 37 to counter pesticide industry propaganda, and 47% of California voters—over 4 million—favored placing GMO labels on our food. Activists in Washington State qualified an initiative, I-522, requiring labeling of GMOs for the 2013 ballot.

The tentacles of agribusiness entwine with chemical corporations and university agricultural departments to push poisonous petrochemical fertilizers, herbicides, and GMOs into our food. Dow Chemical Corporation developed a GMO corn containing 2,4-D, an ingredient of Agent Orange, the poisonous spray used in the war on Vietnam. Placing all these chemicals and GMO crops into our food chain interferes with the balance of the natural plant and insect cycles and often causes health issues. Since 1996, more than 170 million acres of genetically modified corn, soybeans and cottonseed have been planted in the Midwestern and Southern states. Seventy percent of all our processed foods now contain GMO products. Walmart sells Monsanto's unlabeled GMO sweet corn to an unaware public.

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) subsidizes agribusiness farming by purchasing unhealthy, processed foods for school lunches fed to our children. Organic and sustainable farming, not subsidized by our government, is less expensive to farmers than chemical farming, produces healthy food, and in time can out produce agribusiness's GMO crops.

Fifty countries require GMO labeling, and 90% of Americans favor it. In Paraguay, groups called for a notional boycott against planting, buying, or eating GMO corn.

Activists around the world set up a web site for us to make our own labels against GMOs Label <http://labelityourself.org/liy/> Get Yours!



Let's make the next initiative call for **no GMO's in our food.**

To Tase or Not to Tase?

The S.F. Mental Health Board voted 9-2 to send the Police Commission a resolution opposing the purchase of tasers, as "less-lethal weapons" for the Police Department's Crisis Intervention Teams. A couple of dozen citizens, including a representative of the Gray Panthers, spoke for their permitted few minutes each, giving numerous reasons for the Board to support the resolution, after which a uniformed representative (with all kinds of equipment hanging on him) from the Police Department spoke at length and answered questions from the Board members. It is noteworthy that he couldn't deny the large number of deaths that have resulted from the use of tasers by police over the past several years around the nation and he was unable to answer a query about long-range negative effects on electro-shocked taser victims (because, in fact, no follow-up studies on the many cases has been done).

The SFPD has twice before been denied their request to add tasers to their arsenal of weapons. One of the suggestions made at the Mental Health Board meeting was to restore the cutbacks to social programs so that appropriately trained medical/social workers would do this crisis intervention work, rather than the police.

Let the Police know you oppose tasers!

GPs at American Public Health Assn.

As in previous years, SF Gray Panthers was represented at the recent American Public Health Association national convention. APHA has a progressive membership but a conservative leadership, and our role has been to work with others to bring up issues of race and class inequalities in health care.

This year we succeeded in passing a resolution condemning the government's Secure Communities program, where fingerprints of ALL arrestees are given to ICE for deportation of undocumented immigrants. Many prominent Immigrant Rights and Civil Liberties groups have opposed Secure Communities on humanitarian or legal grounds, but this is the first time a Public Health group has opposed the program.

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

Call the office for membership information.

Labor Donated

December 2012

Actions and Events

**Friday, December 7, 5:30-9PM 25th Reunion
Coalition on Homeless**, 3040 22nd St. \$15-75 no
one turned away for lack of funds

**Friday, December 7, Flash Mob Save our Safety
Net 11:30**, Federal Building, 7th & Mission

**Saturday & Sunday, December 8,9, KPFA
Craft Fair**, Concourse-8th & Brannan

**Monday, December 10, National Day of Action
for Social Security, Medicare & Medicaid**, see
CARA www.californiaalliance.org for local events

**Wednesday, December 12, Health Action Team
(HAT)** Bayanihan Center, 1010 Mission

**Thursday, December 13, 10AM, Senior & Dis-
ability Action Meeting**, 1187 Franklin

Thursday, December 13, 6:30-9PM, City Col-
lege of SF Trustees Meeting , Keep City College
Open 33 Gough Street (Market & Mission)
14, 49 buses or K, L, M, N Metro

Saturday, December 15, 3-7PM, 4th Annual
Mercado de Cambio/Tha Po' Sto' - Holiday Art
Market & Knowledge X Change, POOR Magazine
2940 16th Street #301

**Sunday, January 6, 2-4PM, Gray Panther Po-
etry Festival, Dorothy Day Community Center**
54 McAllister

**Happy Holidays and Salute the New
Year!**

