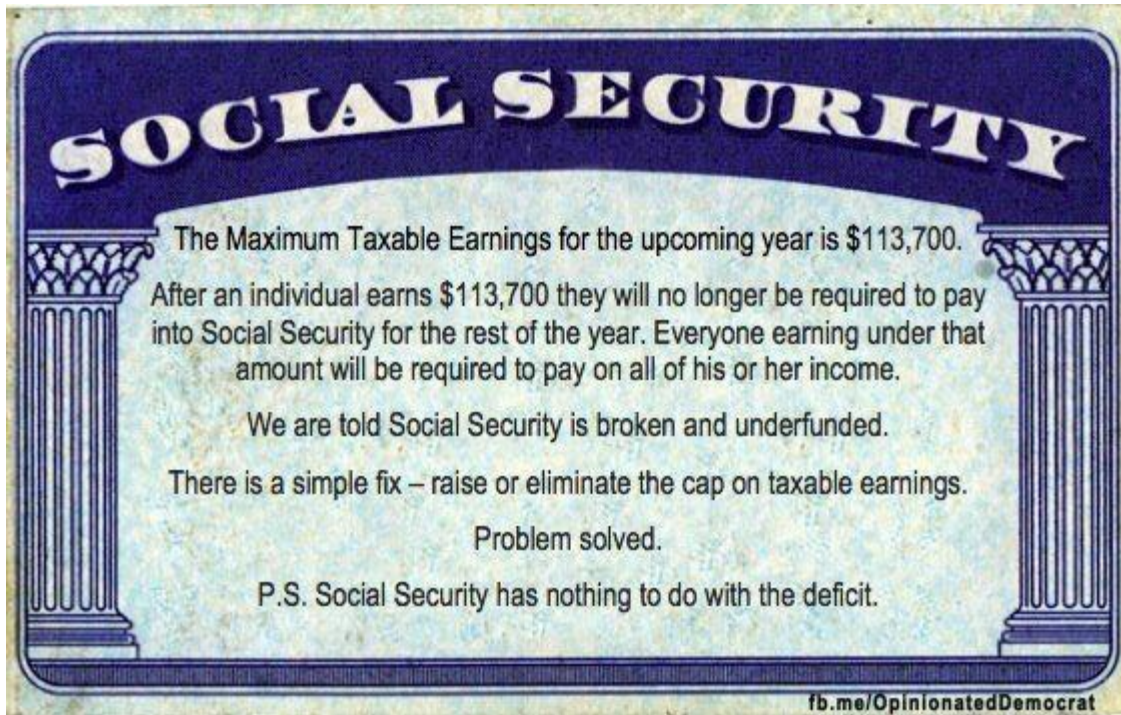


GRAY PANTHERS OF SAN FRANCISCO



**Street Actions for Safety Net Programs
Tuesday, February 19, 2013, 12:30 PM
General Membership Meeting
Unitarian Universalist Center
1187 Franklin @ Geary
Bring a Snack to Share**

GRAY PANTHERS COMMITTEE MEETINGS & EVENTS

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

**Board Meeting Wednesday, 12:30 PM
February 6, March 6**

**Book Club Monday, 10:30 AM Febru-
ary 25, March 25**

**Newsletter Committee Thursday, 12:00
February 7, March 7**

**Civil Liberties/Human Rights Wednes-
day, 12:30, February 13, March 13**



MAY DAY MAY DAY HELP US FIND A NEW OFFICE

January Meeting Call to Action

A lively discussion on how we can translate our concerns for economic and political rights into action preceded the documentary “The Health Care Movie” on single payer and how Canada got it. The film was interesting, the discussion riveting. The result – a motivated committee to plan ongoing street actions for the next 2 months. (see page 3).

Our New Officers

The newly elected SF Gray Panther 2013 Board of Directors held its first meeting on Wed., Jan 2, and elected officers for the coming year. Co-conveners are Patricia and Earl, Secretary Denise, and Treasurer Michael.

Poetry Reading

On Sunday January 6, 2013, Gray Panthers held the first Poetry Festival at the Dorothy Day Community Center, 54 McAllister Street, in San Francisco. Seniors read their own poems or their favorites of others. At this first of a planned series of monthly first Sundays, Harriet hosted the gathering that she and Earl had organized. Readers included Michael, Barbara, David and Lewis; a pleasant discussion followed. Harriet dramatically read some of her serious and comic poems, Michael read political poems; Earl read several of his Haikus, Barbara personal reflections, David read the poem of a philosopher. This was a gentle, informative, varied and well-managed event. Brava, Harriet and Earl and all who attended. Our next Gray Panthers Poetry Festival will be Sunday February 3 2013, 2-4 pm, at the same location. Come to the gathering and bring your favorite poems!

Community Living Campaign

Gray Panther members Marcia, Linda & Marie will present a series of workshops, *Healthy Aging Network Connections*, March 1st, 8th, 15th, & 22nd, at the SF especially for LGBT elders. Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender Center, 1800 Market, Rm 206. The workshops build techniques in peer networking to support healthy aging, Must RSVP 415-359-1816 to reserve. Participants asked to attend all workshops. Women and people of color especially encouraged to attend.

Gray Panthers Losing our Office!

The hi-tech gentrification of Mid-Market has hit home! Shorenestein-Hays Nederlander Theaters, LLC, our landlord has raised our rent from \$335 to \$1,750 a month! A \$1,415 increase! We have until April 1, 2013 to move. The Orpheum building has been our home since 1988. How can any grass roots organization afford this high rent? Help us find a home!

February Meeting

Obviously our February general meeting will deal with our plans for finding a new home for Gray Panthers. But, our work goes on and we will discuss our street actions for Social Security and Medicare and brainstorm new ideas. We may have a surprise performance!

Forty Years Roe v Wade; Protect Our Rights



The Violence Against Women Act was passed in 1994 and this is the first Congress failing to reauthorize it - primarily due to backward Republicans in the House. VAWA has been reintroduced in both the House and Senate. The new versions expand protections to Native American women, immigrant women, and members of the LGBT community. VAWA has ensured that victims and their families have access to the services by establishing the National Domestic Violence Hotline, which has answered over 3 million calls and receives over 22,000 calls every month; 92% of callers report that it's their first call for help. VAWA Laws in 35 states the District of Columbia, and the U.S. Virgin Islands address domestic and sexual violence and stalking in the workplace. How ironic on the anniversary of Roe v Wade the military announces that women too can be sacrificed in combat and participate wars! *Sexual assaults on women in the US Military increased over 30% last year.*

Jackie Speier (Dem CA) acts to end this with H.R.

International V-Day February 14, 2013

V-Day, a global activist movement to end violence against women and girls, takes place on February 14. On V-Day women and men will dance across every country in a worldwide happening. On that day, One Billion Rising will promote creative events to increase awareness, raise money, revitalize the spirit of existing anti-violence organizations, and generate world-wide attention to stop violence against women and girls. Organizing has taken place on thousands of campuses and cities around the globe. See videos from around the world: <http://onebillionrising.org/>

More than 1 out of every 3 women on this planet will experience violence during her lifetime—that's one billion women. Eve Ensler, initiator author of the play, *Vagina Monologues* says, "The movement, One Billion Rising, is a global strike and a call to refuse to participate in business as usual until rape and rape culture ends. Stopping this violence is as crucial as addressing the issues of disease, hunger, and climate change." On Feb. 14th, One Billion Rising will stage an ultimate protest, an inspiration, and a global call to action. One Billion Rising activists are encouraged to focus on local issues affecting women and girls, including work places, home life, laws and legislators, media that supports violence against women and girls, and governments or religious institutions that have not done enough to stop it. Activists have raised consciousness, changed laws, funded rape crisis centers and domestic violence shelters, educated their communities, and raised over \$85 million for groups doing the essential work of ending violence and serving survivors. Coalitions of activists young and old have joined more than 14,000 groups around the world and feminists who have worked tirelessly for decades.

ONE BILLION RISING is designed to show the world our collective strength, our numbers, our solidarity across borders. In San Francisco, Code Pink will Dance or Walk Across the Golden Gate Bridge: Wednesday, February 13th 10:00am.

Every 9 seconds a woman in the US is assaulted or beaten.

87% of US counties have no abortion providers.

Join Gray Panthers Street Actions!

The Business Roundtable is lobbying Congress and the Administration with proposals to raise the retirement age to 70 for both Medicare & Social Security and privatize health insurance for older persons. Their plan would result in smaller yearly benefit increases. The plan includes pitting younger and older workers against one another by not applying their devastating cuts to those 55 and older, but proposing major benefit changes for younger workers. The Administration and Congress are also floating ideas for changes to Social Security and Medicare. With a House fight over raising the debt limit, compromises are looming, we Gray Panthers of San Francisco are mobilizing to protect our social safety net.

We began discussing plans of action at our January general membership meeting. A committee formed and met January 18 to develop an overall plan of actions to precede the deadline for Congress to raise the debt limit. Our first action will take place around the Presidential State of the Union address, Feb 12. We will have a *State of the People in the Union* address in the streets. We are developing a script about the myths and facts on Social Security/Medicare to hand out at each action, scripts for street theater, chants, banners, signs. We are scouting locations for street corner speak-outs. We can ask folks to tweet congresspersons, make a video of our actions for YouTube. Let's educate, agitate and organize folks! Join us!

Write and Support Our Sister Lynne



Lynne Stewart #53504-054
Federal Medical Center,
Carswell PO Box 27137
Ft. Worth, TX 76127

For more Information go to
www.lynnestewart.org

Donations for her Defense
Committee for Lynne's
commissary are appreciated

"We face a formidable challenge in getting my case before the Supreme Court We can only strive to present our issues in the best possible way and "fight like Hell"...Lynne Stewart excerpt from a recent letter.

Revamping of Mid-Market Street

In 1847, Jaspar O'Farrell conceived a vision of San Francisco's main thoroughfare from the site of the Ferry Building to Twin Peaks. Big plans are now under way to upgrade Market Street from 5th Street to the Castro. Here's a look at what is being demolished, what will be preserved, what is being built, and by and for whom. This month we will look at the south side of Market up to Van Ness Avenue.

Between 5th and 6th Streets the huge 901 Market St building used to house Marshalls, Site for Sore Eyes, and Sports Basement. West of this point begins an 8' plywood construction fence announcing the Market Street Place building project, a 260,000-square-foot shopping mall. This fence credits Texas' Cypress Equities Companies and local realtor SRS as developers. The giant international equity firm Carlyle Group (think Bush and King Saud families) is also a partner. The fence stretches to the site of the now closed (to some beloved) Pearl Art Supply store. More important architecturally is the 6-story Charles Wilson Company building built post earthquake in 1907-1909 by architect Henry A Schulze. This is slated as an historic preservation site. Schulze for this building provided us with a "Byzantine" façade, richly colorful mosaic tile design and columnar motifs. Next is the building housing Blick Art Supply, suiting California Art Institute students rather than Pearl's, which ranged from fine art to funk. Blick is the street level building that has been taken over by the tech firms Zoosk and Zendesk. Then, on the corner of 6th St., comes the Hewes Building, which Burning Man has recently moved into.

Between 6th and 7th Streets are art places—the Luggage Gallery, which provides free work and exhibition space for local artists called the Central City Community Arts Program, and next door is Camera Works gallery. Down the block are the AIDS Foundation, "adult" Market Street Cinema, the old boarded up Merrill's, the AIDA hotel and on the corner the Joseph D. Grant Building by architect Newton Tharp, an 8-story-steel frame clad in brownstone terra cotta brick Revival style.

(continued next column)

Between 7th and 8th Streets, the Odd Fellows building on the corner will be preserved. The building houses the Lines Ballet and many non profits, including the 2nd floor studio of Tenderloin photo-journalist Richard L. Perri, aka "Lucky." Near the Odd Fellows building are two buildings housing BAART (Bay Area Addiction Research & Treatment office and an ACT costuming office. Next to these are a wide vacant lot fenced off with an elongated mural-sized rat or wolf motif a piece called **Feral Child** by C. Dill. West of this lot is the bygone STRAND movie theater that ACT is taking over. Not destroying these older buildings is good news. This should help relieve the monotony of harsh street walls provided by modern buildings. At 1145 Market is 1983-built Trinity Center and Caffe Trinity/Coffee shop. And next is Trinity Plaza Apartments, site of a past tenants' battle. Recently, Williams Scotsman and Swinerton trailers appeared on their big parking lot.

Between 8th & 9th Streets, moving past the Chase Bank and the Hotel Whitcomb, is a 6-8 story inscrutably blocky building whose sheer fenestration and gray concrete smooth blank surface is ugly to walk by; there's no humanity to it. This will be the headquarters of Dolby Laboratories, continuing the transformation of the Mid-Market neighborhood into a technology hub.

Between 9th and 10th is the huge Art Deco style building that formerly held Western Furniture Exchange and Merchandise Mart. Lured by such perks as Mayor Lee's tax breaks, Twitter offices will be installed with remodeling by Swinerton Builders. The Shorenstein logo is on its glass doors. Signs on the building boast: 96,000 square feet retail; 4,600+ residential units, 6,000 potential onsite employees, 172,000 visitors annually.

Between 10th and 11th is a big building going up plastered with "NEMA" about residential housing. Like Market Street Place this site also cites Colliers International as a partner.

Past Van Ness At Dolores, Webcor is building 81 residential units plus a Whole Foods (aka "Whole Paycheck".) These structures threaten our views—the chunks of trees and undulating hills like Twin

How the Economy Works for the One Percent

"Capitalism is the astounding belief that the most wickedest of men will do the most wickedest of things for the greatest good of everyone." John Maynard Keynes

How Google Avoids Paying Taxes

According to an article in the Dec. 12 SF Chronicle by Jesse Drucker, a Bloomberg reporter, "Google avoided about \$2 billion in worldwide income taxes by shifting \$9.8 billion in revenues into a Bermuda shell company." Google says, rightly, that it complies with all tax rules. In the US that means using the tax shelters that Congress created at the behest of the hi-tech industry. The strategy to reduce income taxes is known as Double Irish and Dutch Sandwich (see our June 2012 Newsletter on our website for a description of how it works). It involves US companies like Google, Apple and Amazon attributing billions of dollars in profits to European subsidiaries that eventually end up in Bermuda, which has no corporate income tax.

All the hoopla about the fiscal cliff and increasing income tax rates serves to hide the much more important reality that these companies shelter a major part of their income from any tax, no matter what the rate. As Richard Murphy, director of Tax Research in England, says "It is us or them. People understand that if Google doesn't pay, someone else has to pay or services get cut."

An App for Tax Rates

(Abstracted from a column by Andrew S. Ross in the S.F. Chronicle of July 31, 2012.)

Here's an app for tracking how much U.S. corporations really pay in taxes. The Nerd Wallet website has developed a "tax rate transparency tool" that tells you for example, that Chevron of San Ramon paid \$1.9 billion to the federal government in 2011, or just 4% on \$47.6 billion of pretax earnings. Apple of Cupertino paid 11% on pretax earnings of \$34.2 billion, while Wells-Fargo's bill of \$3.4 billion was 14% of its \$23.7 billion in pretax earnings. So much for that 35 % corporate tax rate that is sending U.S. companies fleeing overseas.

To be fair, these companies are shelling out other money in addition to foreign, state and local governments. Chevron deferred \$877 million owing to the IRS, Apple deferred a whopping \$3 billion, and Wells-Fargo deferred even more, \$3.1 billion. Can you defer paying your income taxes?

Chutzpah Personified

AIG, American International Group, is the world's largest insurance company. In September, 2008, when the sub-prime mortgage collapse shook the financial world, AIG faced bankruptcy. It begged the US government for help. The US bailed them out with \$182 billion. Maurice Greenberg, one-time CEO of AIG, is head of the Starr International private equity company, which controls 12% of AIG stock. Starr sued the US government for \$25 billion, claiming the terms of the bailout damaged shareholder value. Without the bailout, shareholder value would have been zero. Starr (and Greenberg) requested that AIG join the suit. Even AIG drew the line at that and voted down the request.

Looked at your AT&T Bill Lately?

In August 2006 the California Public Utilities Commission voted to deregulate AT&T and other local telephone services. The market, they said, will discipline prices. Since then AT&T's price for landline phones has gone from \$10.69 per month to \$23.00, limited service from \$5.70 to \$18.35 – more than doubled in price in the last six years. According to the Census Bureau, US median household income decreased 8.1% in the same period. Partial energy deregulation brought on rolling blackouts, soaring prices and cooked Enron. Deregulating banks by dismantling the Glass-Steagall Act helped deliver our current recession and near collapse of the global economy. Maybe the free-marketers are a bigger threat than al-Queda.

Why the Rich Finance Politicians

Private equity fund managers, hedge fund managers, and venture capitalists, some of the wealthiest Americans, went relatively untouched by the fiscal cliff promise that everyone would pay their fair share. These money managers at privately held partnerships are paid mainly by a bonus on profits which is taxed as "carried interest" at the new capital gains rate of 20% (up from 15%) rather than the 39.6 % personal income tax rate. Bay Area private equity firms contributed over \$6.7 million to the 2012 federal elections., according to an analysis on data from the Federal Election Commission.

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.

Printed in House February 2013

Actions and Events

Sunday, February 3, 2-4 PM GP Poetry Reading 54 McAllister, Dorothy Day Comm. Center

Monday, February 4, 6PM Community meeting on SFPD use of tasers, Scottish Rite Center 2850 19th Ave

Tuesday, February 5, 9:30-1:30PM Hands Off Social Security Training, SDA 1390 Mission

Wednesday, February 6, 5:15 PM Save the People's Post Office Meeting, ILWU #10, 400 North Point (Mason St) Free parking

Wednesday, February 6, 6-8 PM Community Meeting: Defend City College of SF. CCSF Mission Campus, 1125 Valencia, Rm. 109

Monday, February 11, 9 AM Bus to Sacramento for Single Payer at Fulton Street, next to the Asian Art Museum

Tuesday, February 12, 9:30-1:30PM Hands Off Social Security Training, SDA 1390 Mission

Wednesday, February 13, 1 PM City Hall, SDA HAT & CASE deliver valentines to Supervisors stating senior's concerns

Thursday, February 14, 4-6 PM City Hall. One Billion Rising. See page 3

Saturday, February 16, 2PM, public memorial service for Jon Fromer, social justice musician labor and civil rights activist. Unitarian Universalist Church in San Francisco, 1187 Franklin

Sunday, February 17, 1-3 PM Rally, Forward on Climate, Sierra Club & 350.org. Urging the President to act on climate change and reject the Keystone XL pipe line

