

GRAY PANTHERS OF SAN FRANCISCO

**30 major corporations
paid zero income tax
over the last 3 years**



**while making
\$160 billion**

* Citizens for Tax Justice, quoted on ThinkProgress.org, Full article: <http://goo.gl/QLV4r>



**Tuesday, April 16,
2013, 12:30 PM**

**General Membership Meeting
Unitarian Universalist Center
1187 Franklin @ Geary**

GRAY PANTHERS COMMITTEE MEETINGS & EVENTS
Call the office for meeting times & locations

**Board Meeting Wednesday, April 3 12:30
PM The Mary Louise Stong Room, 1st
floor in Public Library, 100 Larkin**

Book Club Monday, 10:30 AM

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

Newsletter Committee Thursday, 12:00



April 3 Board Meeting Public Library, 1st floor Stong Room

Harriet, Denise & David Tour

The Fair City By the Bay
by Harriet Sebastian

The little city that's known
All over the world
In sophisticated sleek countries
In old art world Greek-like countries
To jungle forest lands
This city is really GRAND !
To great empires with untold powers
Say San Francisco
Get smiles and flowers
And they say, "Oh yes, we know!
We've been to San Francisco!
And next year again we'll go!"

BUT, there is a secret deep and dark
A city within a city park
A valley on top of a vast wasteland
Where the dust blows
Harmful chemicals
Where secrets meet the fowl air
And little children play and share
Asthma, cancer and deformity
Seep through the skin
And they cannot BREATHE!!!

To run a city so great and fair
You need great efficient industries there!
They are hidden in valleys
Like slumbering sheep
BUT waste products
They cannot keep!
TOGETHER
We MUST find solutions right away
For our fair city by the bay!

NO CHILDREN IN THE PARK

The beauty of the areas known as Bay View Hunters Point (BVHP) belies its history as an industrial and polluting toxic soup. On our tour of the Bay View Hunters Point (BVHP) we saw two modern up to date equipped playgrounds. However, not one child was playing there. Could it be because of the toxic air or sewer smell that surrounds the area? According to our tour guide Dr. Raymond Tompkins the Bayview-Hunters Point area's residences have the highest rate of cancer

and asthma in the Bay area. Other exposures include cardiovascular disease, risk for skin and lung cancers, headaches, fatigue, skin, ear, nose and throat irritation, upper and lower respiratory illness and endless health risks of all kinds.

Bayview-Hunters Point is the home to a garbage dumpsite, sewer plants, asphalt plant, animal rendering plants, recycling facilities, ship repair facilities and a wholesale produce market venting diesel particulates from delivery trucks.

Despite its multiple successful industries, this area also has the lowest employment rates. Add together the unhealthy atmosphere, the Bayview is also noted for violence of all sorts, including suicides.

The tour was fascinating in terms of the history of this area and the present danger to its residents' health and well-being. But what is clearly brought out is that the effects do not stay in one community. The air circulates all over San Francisco and is not static in one location. So, it behooves all of us to get involved in cleaning up and preventing the devastation effects in the Bayview. (BCOA) Black Coalition on Aids health Equity Council provides the opportunity. Denise D'Anne
Go to www.bcoa.org.

David adds that among other community groups was a representative from Senator Boxer's office.

Gray Panthers Office Update!

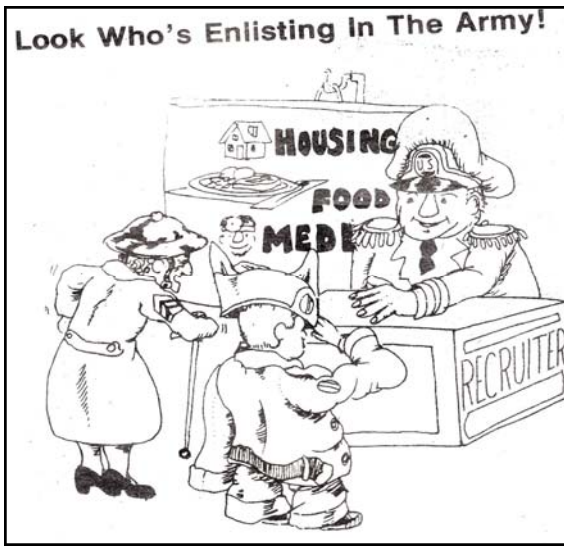
Our original meeting with Greg Holland on March 25, was cancelled and rescheduled and at printing deadline we wait for a reschedule date. We do believe, however, that the offer to sit down and discuss our rental situation is the result of our contacting the Board of Supervisors.

Updates will be on office phone, 552-8800 and web site

[Presente!](#)

Victor Honig Feb 3, 1921– Feb 13, 2013 long-time Gray Panther activist and supporter the originator of our Tax Day Enlistment Action. (see page 3). A proud participant in and an articulate spokesperson for the political left. Hail and Farewell.

From Our Archives
April 9, 1986 Sun Reporter



The Gray Panthers led a delegation of young and old to the Army Recruiting Headquarters in SF. They planed to enlist, claiming the Army was the only place that guaranteed housing, food and medical care. We called it the Tax Day Enlistment Campaign—Let's Go Where the Money Is!

~

You Can Fight City Hall and Win!
California Pacific Medical Center-CPMC

A year ago Mayor Lee presented to the Board of Supervisors for approval an agreement he had negotiated with CPMC giving them all they asked for for their proposed new hospital at Geary/Van Ness (Cathedral Hill), and their handling of St Luke's Hospital in the Mission. But the board refused to approve the giveaway with the strong backing of a community/labor coalition, *San Franciscans for Healthcare, Housing, Jobs. and Justice*. On March 19, a new agreement with CPMC was announced, incorporating almost all of the coalition's demands, short of not building at that site at all. The size of Cathedral Hill will be scaled back from 555 beds to 274, the parking garage will be smaller, the hospital signed a contract with the National Union of Healthcare Workers. (CPMC has not settled with the nurses). St Luke Hospital will expand from 80 beds to 120, making it more commercially viable by meet the growing dot com population.

Violence Against Women Act!

Congress reauthorized- but not without a fight- and Obama signed the landmark 1994 Violence Against Women Act, which assists victims of domestic and sexual violence. House Republicans supported a version of the Senate bill that eliminated sexual orientation, gender identity, and some protections for women on American Indian reservations. But Republican representatives are very aware of the power of women's vote and that they need to be reelected every two years, and enough Republicans (87) joined their Democratic colleagues to reject the weaker House bill and pass the Senate version 286-138.

Fukushima

March 11 was the second anniversary of the earthquake and tsunami that caused multiple meltdowns at the Dai-ichi nuclear power plant in Japan. The day was marked by major protests in Tokyo and throughout Japan demanding an end to atomic power. After the disaster all of Japan's 50 reactors were shutdown and only 2 have been put back online. On March 20 the Tokyo Electric Power Company that owns Dai-ichi admitted that the cooling system for the spent fuel pools there had been shut down for over 24 hours because of a power failure. TEPCO has been repeatedly accused of cover-up scandals.

ACORN—Don't Rest in Peace!

Association of Community Organization for Reform Now (ACORN) was once the nation's largest community organization of low and middle income families with a program emphasizing housing, living wages, better schools, voter registration, more community development for everybody. It was killed by a faked video showing ACORN employees giving advice on prostitution illegal immigration, and other such activities. The video was widely publicized by every conservative media outlet. ACORN's protests and challenges to accuracy were ignored. The organization was destroyed. On March 9, of this year, the video maker agreed to pay \$100,000 to an ACORN employee maligned by the selectively edited video. A US Attorneys General report, 2009 & 2010 had cleared ACORN. Unfortunately, the conservative "selective editing" propaganda version is still widespread in the media..

Paid Your Taxes Yet?

April is income tax month. This year is the 100th anniversary of the 16th Amendment to the Constitution giving Congress the power to impose a federal income tax. The first top rate was 7%, to the consternation of progressives who had aimed for 65%. In the years since, the top rate has ranged from 25% in the 1920s to 94% during WW11. FDR's tax guru, Randolph Paul, said stiff tax rates "served to counteract undue concentration of wealth". In 1955 under Eisenhower the IRS took 51% of America's top 400 incomes. (Don't weep for them, they still had more than plenty). But Pres. John F. K Kennedy, from a rich family, lowered the top rate from 91 to 65% to "promote economic growth". Thus inspired, the Reagan administration brought it down to 28%, and in 2007 the top 400 paid the IRS just 16.6%. Even if the top rate on the 1% was 94% and the many loopholes by which they reduced that tax were cut back and the IRS took 51% of America's top 400 incomes as in the 1950s, it wouldn't solve our financial problems or level the playing field or reverse austerity. But it would be a step in the right direction.

The Rich Got Richer

Bill Gates is the second richest person in the world (\$67 billion), Warren Buffett the fourth (\$53.5 billion), and Larry Ellison the fifth (\$43 billion), according to Forbes, and they are richer this year than they were last year. The rest of the planet's 1,426 billionaires are also richer this year.

In the '50s, General Motors was the largest employer in the US. Workers had good paying union jobs and were paid the equivalent of \$50 an hour, factoring in inflation. Today the largest US employer is Walmart, paying their employees around \$8 an hour. Many of these workers must apply for food stamps and Medicaid, consequently, we subsidize Walmart heirs with US Gov't funds.

Can You Live On This?

The federal minimum wage is \$7.25 /hour. California Representative George Miller has sponsored a bill in Congress to raise it to \$9.00. The California minimum wage is \$8.00, Oregon \$8.95, Washington \$9.19, San Francisco \$10.55.

Who Knew? Standard and Poor

The federal government and sixteen states, including California, filed multi-billion dollar civil law suits against Standard and Poor (S&P), the nation's leading credit rating agency, for "downplaying and disregarding the true extent of the risks" of the financial instruments they had rated as rock-solid. S&P claims it had no reason to question the soundness of the mortgage-backed securities. But the lawsuits cite numerous internal memos and e-mails from 2005 on warning that certain underlying loans did not meet underwriting standards. Similar suits have been filed by various entities against JP Morgan Chase and Morgan Stanley, claiming bank executives suppressed or altered documents to hide their financial inadequacies. Will they be fined and forced to pay restitution? Likely. Will the restitution go to the people who lost their homes or their homes' values? Certainly not. Will any executives be punished? Highly unlikely. Will the perpetrators have to say mea culpa? That is the purpose of the suits, to assign accountability and force the nations' biggest financial institutions to meet at least minimum anti-fraud standards.

Chevron and the FEC

Public Citizen filed a complaint this month with the Federal Election Commission (FEC) charging ChevronUSA broke the 73 year old "pay to play" law by contributing \$2.5 million to the Republican PAC Congressional Leadership Fund. The law prohibits federal contractors from contributing to political candidates, committees, or campaigns. Even if the FEC acts on the complaint and finds Chevron guilty - don't hold your breath - what will be the penalty? A slap on the wrist fine? A gallon of gas in SF at this writing costs \$4.25.



Revamping North Market Street

(continued from prior article on South Market)

At Taylor/Golden Gate/6th Street is **982-998 Market**, the **Warfield Building**, built in 1922 an 8-9 floor historical building. It's being renovated by S.F. Group 1 and Colliers International to be "a modern, green building with flexible office and retail space," according to street level eight foot tall construction signs. Above the marquee for the Warfield Theater (a major rock venue) is a display window with sculptures of female caryatids framed by Corinthian columns; small classical motifs are atop ordinary windows. *Benchmark*, an investor/partner in Twitter, has reputedly contracted for 10,000 square feet in the building.

Across Taylor is the SHN beaux arts **Golden Gate Theater**, the upstairs floors are being renovated. West of 1000 Market is boarded up **Hollywood Billiards** that has a colorful "eyes" mural in front of this, actually a good looking two story building, dramatically closed 12/10/2003.

There are no new developments until west of Van Ness, where there is to be a new building at **1600 Market** where Page and Franklin Streets end. According to a workman at the site (no descriptive sign is posted by Cahill Contractors), this will be a 5 or 6 story mixed-use building. Going by the curved wooden under-structure at the upper floors, the building may turn out to be imaginative.

Going west to the **1700 block** was a grassy trapezoidal knoll-like plot going uphill along Octavia Blvd (now continuing Highway 101). Architect Stanley Saitowitz, is considered to be reputable. Online web sites show the flashy buildings with distorted foreground photos of the intersection streets, masking probably pedestrian and vehicular hazard. In the large, glassy, vulgar and vulnerable-looking buildings there are to be 48 condo units with retail businesses where Octavia and Market meet. Two buildings with a glass curtain façade, 8 stories on Market Street diminish to 5 stories at Haight Street; as the land ascends to Hayes Valley, the building's roof remains horizontal. By law, (unnamed) developers are supposed to post what they are doing, but these have not. City planners and Hayes Valley seems to be very happy over "8 Octavia," but since traffic, especially going North from the highway is intense, building here is likely

Asking for serious trouble and liabilities for the City (us taxpayers) no? Environmental Impact Reports go by density, exemptions that seem all to be worked out in theory not on the street, nor considering the actual site.

West of the Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender Center (**1800 Market**) is going up what looks to be a huge mixed use building to be at least 8 stories by James E. Roberts and Oboyashi contractors. At the next intersection, **Laguna**, at the former U.C. Extension site, there will be 50 BMR additional units besides the 109 BMR already contracted for by openhouse and Mercy Housing.

At **1998 Market** opposite the Old Mint Building at Buchanan/Duboce/Market is an awesome building site with huge cement slabs like standing sculptures visible inside on the street level. This is yet another Cahill Contractors project (415 378-8657) and the developers Brian Spiers Development has finally posted a sign. This monster West of "The Mint" bar will be *Alliance*, a UCSF Health project for LGBTQ and HIV counseling. The new building is fast covering a Harvey Milk mural that had been replaced by something literary in the style of Thomas Hart Benton, a great American painter/muralist.

The **2000 block** is a Recycling Center (see how long the Condo-ish residents at the (2001) "Whole Foods" 81 unit building going up across the street will stand for leaving *that* there.

At **2100**, the now closed Home restaurant looks ripe for the pickin,' and up the road west of Café du Nord, at 15th Street is a large vacant lot fenced off with chain link fence.

At **2200 block** of Market where 15th Street and Sanchez cross (just west of this is Beck's Motor Lodge), is to be a mixed-use six-floor building, according to a workman at the site. This building along Market Street is recently demarked by rainbow-colorful oranges and pinks that heralds the upcoming Castro—a very active calligraphic graffiti 8' barricade. Unfortunately, a lovely view of treed hills behind, the Twin Peaks/Corona Heights ridge will be obscured soon.



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 April 2013

Actions and Events

Mondays—Fridays, March 1 through May 30,
Call to schedule 415.777.8242 *Strange Opinions,*
Time Travel and Reckless Contact with Electric
Eels, Exhibition by David Young Allen, Visual
Aid Gallery, 57 Post Street

Thursday, April 11, 10AM—Noon SDA Unitar-
ian Universalist Church, 1187 Franklin

Thursday, April 11, CARA 1PM—2:30PM
1188 Franklin, ILWU office #4

Friday, April 12—May 25 “If Gender is a Kind
of Doing” Gallery Exhibition, MCCLA 2868 Mis-
sion Street

Saturday, April 13, Noon, National Day of Pro-
test: Drones out of Middle East, Africa, Asia &
Here! Powell & Market

Call Congress, 1-877-210-5351 Stop Drone At-
tacks! Info: www.wilpf-sf@hotmail.com

Saturday, April 20, 10AM—6PM Civic Center
Earth Day Free, Music, speakers, exhibitions,
www.earthdaysf.org

Monday, April 22, Noon— 2PM, Action for En-
vironmental & Climate Justice SF EPA Re-
gional office, 75 Hawthorne Street

Tuesday, April 23, 5:30—9:30 PM, A Night
with the Stars, performance & benefit for Com-
munity Housing Partnership, Herbst Theater,
401 Van Ness www.chp-sf.org

Every day call Rep Nancy Pelosi

Say NO CUTS to Social Security, Medicaid,
and Medicare 1-877-762-8762

Scrap the “cap”

