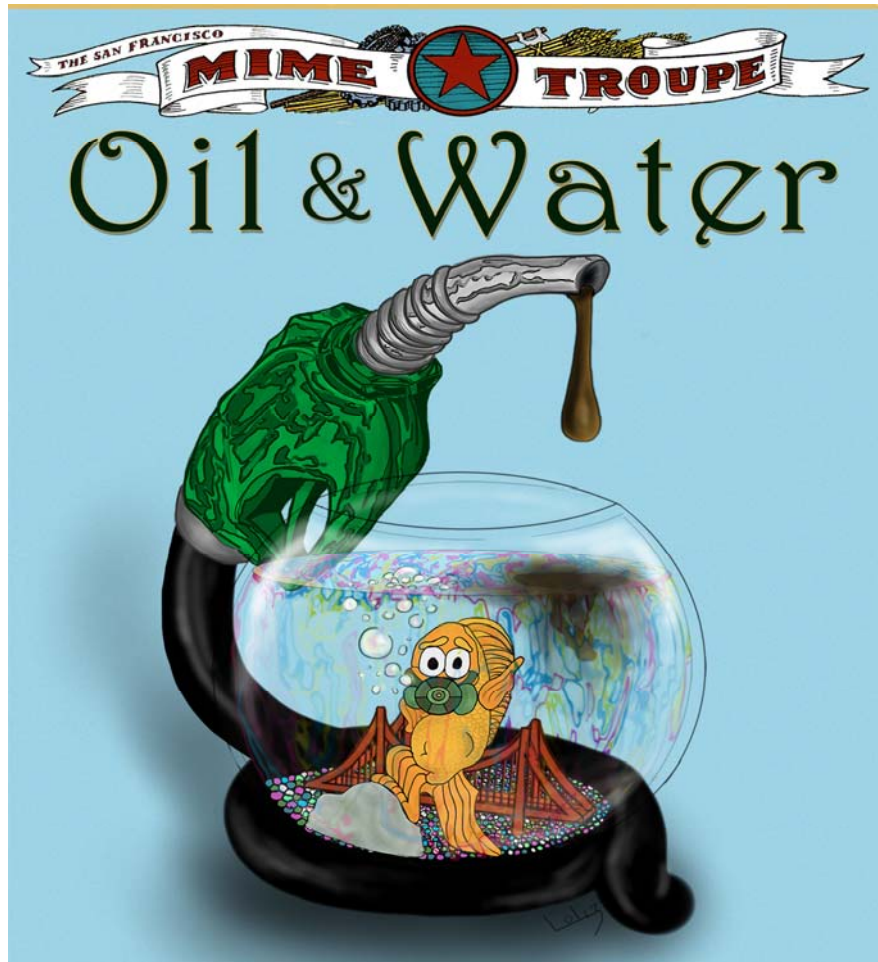


GRAY PANTHERS OF SAN FRANCISCO



**August Membership Meeting
Sunday, August 4, 1:30
With the SF Mime Troupe!
At Yerba Buena Gardens**

GRAY PANTHERS COMMITTEE MEETINGS & EVENTS

All meetings and events take place at 2940 16th Street 200-4, unless otherwise noted

**Board Meeting Wednesday, August 7,
12:30**

**Civil Liberties/Human Rights No August
Meeting**

**Newsletter Committee Thursday, 11:00
August 8**

**Book Club Monday, 10:30 AM August 25
in the Main Library**



August Meeting The SF Mime Troupe Details page 2

National Day Save Social Security Stop the Chained CPI

On July 2, we joined hundreds to rally and march



down Market Street with our own GP Sonja on the lead banner!

Reading the SF Chronicle or the Examiner, you would never know that the Pride Parade of commercialism *also* contained Free



Bradley Manning protestors, the largest contingent in the June 30 Pride March. Thankfully, independent media covers our side of the news! Indybaymedia.org

Demo for Lynne Stewart Aug 1 Noon at 7th and Mission

Lynne Stewart deteriorates daily in prison, thousands sign petitions for her release and her doctors call treatment critical for her survival. Why is Lynne still in prison? Whose security is threatened? This outrageous hold of Lynne is symbolic of the attacks on civil rights and all activist; while the Supreme Court eviscerates constitutional and universal human rights.

**Write to Lynne: Lynne Stewart #5304-054
Federal Medical Center Carswell
P.O. Box 27137
Ft. Worth, TX 76127**

Jazzie Collins *Presente!*

We honor the life of Jazzie, friend and ally, who died July 11, 2013. There was never a march or demo in this city without her presence and voice for justice.

August General Meeting

*Yerba Buena Gardens
Sun, Aug 4th @ 2:00 PM
(Music 1:30) Mission & 3rd Street
FREE (donation appreciated)*



Our traditional August meeting, the SF Mime Troupe summer play presentation, is Aug 4. This year's production is "Oil & Water." And Bring your water! Meet at the park @ 1:30 to hear the music Look for the Gray Panthers in chairs!

Gray Panthers *Not Missing in Action!*

Through the months of June and July we moved our old office of 25 years into a cozy, sunlit new office complete with a beautiful oil painting by member David Allen Young. We inaugurate our new space Tuesday, August 7, 12:30 PM with our first board meeting in our new office. During these hectic days, we were not up and running and unable to produce a July newsletter, answer all phone calls, or have an office! We will plan an "office warming" soon for everyone to visit our new home.



A Challenge to Pelosi

On cold, Sunday July 21, we stood in front of 62 Woodland Ave. where a benefit for Nancy Pelosi was held. We warmed by joining 25 to 30 people with placards and banners asking Pelosi to support HR 676 (expanded and improved Medicare for All Act). Some attendees at the benefit offered to challenge Pelosi who refused to give a straight answer to support hands off Social Security.

Denise D'Anne suggested a "Silent Rally", bringing canned cat food to show what seniors would be forced to eat if Social Security were dismantled. Ironically, the 62 Woodland house was where Eleanor Roosevelt stayed in S F. Eleanor's niece, the late Diana Roosevelt Jaicks lived there with her husband Agar He still lives there.

In attendance were members of Gray Panthers, Single Payer Now, CARA, S F Green Party, Senior and Disability Action, Older Women's League (OWL) and Reverend Glenda Hope.

SF City College Fight to Keep It Open

City College SF's accrediting agency, the ACCJC, is tightening the screws, saying CCSF's changes were not enough and ACCJC will withdraw accreditation in July 2014, the end of the next academic year. A huge effort is underway to prevent a massive exodus this Fall, when CCSF WILL BE OPEN and credits will be transferred. Please call the office, 415-552-8800, and we will get a CCSF IS OPEN! window poster to you.

The State-appointed special Trustee has now been given complete Trustee powers to allow him to "save" CCSF by radically downsizing it, eliminating its community outreach and lifelong learning, cutting faculty power, hiring more administrators, and shifting revenue from classes to reserves.

The agency says CCSF education is excellent but there's too much community in Community Colleges, not only in SF, but state-wide.

The ACCJC, the state-wide Community College Chancellor's Office, the so-called Student Success Task Force, and the Governor's office all want to downsize and streamline California's Community Colleges to serve only full-time students transferring to 4-year colleges or working for specific vocational certification programs. Millions of young adults would be put in years of debt-slavery to repay student loans needed for full-time attendance.

The ACCJC accreditation agency is a private organization partly funded by two pro-privatization groups, the Gates foundation (promotes charter schools) and the Lumina Foundation (amassed over \$1 billion from student loans). The Teachers Union submitted a minutely-detailed 250-page report to the US Dept of Education, which is investigating the ACCJC's operations to see if their contract should be renewed. See www.saveccsf.org.

Supporting BART Workers

BART workers may be forced to resume their strike, Aug 5, if management has not addressed workers' issues. If the strike resumes, we will mobilize at our new office and hand out our supporting leaflet at 16th & Mission. Call us for times. 415-552-8800 or email graypanther-sf@sonic.net

No Justice No Peace

We do not live in a post-racial society. The Malcolm X Grassroots Movement discovered that a black person is killed every 28 hours. Deportations of undocumented people and people in detention centers have reached over 1.5 million. The verdict in the Zimmerman trial reinforced the depth of racism and white supremacy in this country — the Supreme Court eviscerating the 1965 Voter Rights Act, ALEC writing legislation like "Stand Your Ground", and the gerrymandering of legislative districts. Zimmerman was tried by a jury of his peers in a redistricted area that includes only 8% African Americans. He is set free to stalk and kill again.



On July 20, 2013, A National Day of Action for Trayvon Martin, people gathered at the Federal Building vowed to remember and honor Trayvon by continuing to challenge the "unjustice" system. Rev. Lennox of the Hip Hop Caucus spoke to our need to get rid of all the "stand your ground" laws in every state with them, demand that the Dept. of Justice bring a case against Zimmerman and that we stay in the streets! The words of youth who stepped up to speak brought tears to our eyes yet hope to our hearts as they remained strong and told us that Trayvon was like them "It was not right that he was killed."

Supreme Court Eviscerates Voting Rights Act

Justice Roberts called the Act unconstitutional because it relies on 40 years of old data which he said does not account for racial progress! Murdering of youth of color is progress? Moving from poll taxes to voter restriction laws is progress? Prior to the 1965 Voting Rights Act far less than 25% of African Americans were able to vote in presidential elections in the South. After the Act that rose to over 80% in 2008. After the Supreme Court decision, several of the 15 states previously held in check joined by other states not covered in the Act, immediately moved to enact or resumed discriminatory voting restrictions.

More on Companies We Love to Hate

PG&E: The California Public Utilities Commission (PUC) proposed that PG&E be penalized \$2.25 billion for the San Bruno pipeline blast in Sept., 2010, that killed 8 people and destroyed 38 homes. The city of San Bruno says PG&E should pay \$3.85 billion. The PUC calls it a *penalty*, terminology which allows the company to claim \$900 million in tax deductions. San Bruno calls it a *fine*, which can't be used as a tax deduction and the \$900 million would go into the state's general fund. San Bruno wants to force PG&E not only to spend \$2.25 billion to fix its broken gas system but to fund an additional \$1.6 billion for its years-long violations of safety rules. As of mid-July the PUC Safety Division proposed fining PG&E at least \$300 million in addition to its \$2.25 billion penalty devoted to upgrading its natural gas network. In December the PUC said PG&E could pass on to its customers about \$1.7 billion of the cost. The new proposal says all of the penalty and fine money should come from PG&E and its shareholders, not from higher prices to consumers. The PUC's general counsel is Frank Lindh, who was a PG&E attorney for more than 10 years before being hired by the PUC in 2008, 10 years during which many of the pipeline safety violations occurred. Talk about hiring the fox to protect the hen house. Meanwhile PG&E has asked for electricity rate increases that will amount to \$5.33 billion in the next 3 years. CEO Tony Early was paid \$12 million last year.

In associated news **Southern California Edison**, PG&E's LA clone, announced that the San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station will be permanently closed. This year nuclear plants in Wisconsin and in Florida have been closed. How about Diablo Canyon?...and in Tokyo, TEPCO, the company that runs the Fukushima Dai-ichi plant, admitted that radioactive water was leaking into the sea from storage tanks that hold contaminated water that was used to cool the melted reactors. They also admitted that 10 times as many workers were exposed to radiation than previously announced.

Wells Fargo: Wells Fargo, the largest US mortgage lender, last month agreed to pay \$39 million (small change to them) to promote home ownership and community development to settle claims that it neglected homes in minority communities.

On the Abortion Front

The Supreme Court refused to hear challenges to decisions by a federal judge in Indiana and the 7th US Court of Appeals that blocked an Indiana law that would have banned Medicaid funds to organizations whose work includes performing abortions. Since the Indiana law exempted hospitals and state-licensed surgical clinics, this was directed specifically at Planned Parenthood.

Even though thousands of women stood in the Texas capital chambers to support Wendy Davis' 11-hour filibuster to save abortion for all women, Gov. Perry called a special legislation session which overrode the will of the people with a bill so restrictive that it would close 37 out of 42 clinics in the state.

Washington 8 on the November Ballot

Developer Simon Snellgrove wants to demolish the Bay Club and build 134 luxury condos at the site. The city has already approved a special 136 foot height limit for the project, far higher than the 84 foot height limit along the waterfront. On the ballot is a referendum on whether the height increases should be allowed. The developers sent letters to the IRS, the state attorney general and the Fair Political Practices Commission claiming the group urging a no vote on raising the limit is violating tax and campaign disclosure laws. Whether they are or not is irrelevant to the main issue. Historical note: in 1984 and 2003 similar proposals for fancy condos on the same site were denied.

School of the Americas (SOA)

SOA (now called the Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation) is a US military training school for Latin American military establishments. SOA Watch (founded by Father Roy Bourgeois) used the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) to compile the names of every soldier and instructor from 1946 to 2003 and link them to death squads, military dictatorships, and torture. The Department of Defense then refused to release any more names in the interest of national security. SOA Watch sued and in April a US District judge ordered the DOD to release the names. No doubt this decision will be appealed..

The 1%

US corporate directors at S & P 500 companies earned an average of \$1000.00/ hour in 2012....A typical large company CEO made \$9.7 million last year. Highest paid was Leslie Moonves of CBS at \$60.3 million; next was David Zaslav of Discovery Communications at \$49.9 million. Health care CEOs median pay was \$11.1 million....Ray Lane, former chairman of Hewlett-Packard and of Oracle and partner-emeritus of a venture capital firm, has been accused by the IRS of being part of a "sham" tax shelter that improperly claimed losses of \$251 million to offset \$250 million in income. Participants in the sham shelters included Deutsche Bank that paid \$553.6 million in fines for helping some 2160 customers evade about \$5.9 billion in taxes, and consulting firm BDO Seidman that paid \$50 million to settle a charge of tax fraud that led to the evasion of about \$1.3 billion in taxes from 1997 to 2003. Blows your mind, doesn't it?

Drones in the US

According to *Defending Dissent*, drone regulating legislation has been introduced in 35 state legislatures ranging from prohibition of weapons or cameras to providing protection from surveillance. Rep Ed Markey (Dem, MA) has introduced HR 1262, the Drone Aircraft Privacy and Transparency Act, mandating information on who will control them, what data will be collected and how it will be used, and requiring law enforcement agencies to get a warrant before using a drone for surveillance. Congress approved using drones in the US in 2011. They are currently used to patrol the US-Mexican border, in law enforcement and in agriculture. The Alameda County sheriff wants to use them for surveillance, according to SF WILPF. We are used to reading about their lethal strikes overseas, not so aware of their prevalence at home.

For information, read *Drone Warfare: Killing By Remote Control* by Medea Benjamin or go to www.droneswatch.org.

About terrorism – May 31, 2009, abortion provider Dr. George Tiller was killed by an anti-abortionist. No one called the murderer a "terrorist."

California Prisoners' Hunger Strike

On July 7, 2013, 30,000 prisoners in prisons across California struck to demand 5 basic rights:

1. End Group Punishment & Administrative Abuse
2. Abolish the Debriefing, Modify Gang Criteria
3. End to Long-Term Solitary Confinement
4. Provide Adequate and Nutritious Food
5. Provide Constructive Programming & Privileges

The California prison system holds over 10,000 prisoners in solitary confinement units, many having spent more than 20 years in isolation. Conditions in Pelican Bay State Prison's Secure Housing Unit sparked massive waves of hunger strikes in 2011. Protests were centered on the SHU which locks people in cells for at least 22 hours.

Now 2 years later, the same initial demands have not been met. The Center for Constitutional Rights has filed a motion to allow prisoner spokespersons to represent over 1,000 people in the SHU. A hearing on that motion is scheduled for August 8, 2013.

Call Governor Brown (916) 445-2841 tell him you support the Hunger Strikers, to end torture of solitary confinement, to force the California Department of Corrections & Rehabilitation to negotiate meet & negotiate prisoners' demands.

Solstice

The longest day.
Late light slants the tree, the hill.
Boys, up and down, run and ride
Against the setting sun.
Like me they want the day to never end,
Good times to go on forever.

Far across the yard, a silky silhouette
Of mama deer and following fawn
Against the gloom of woodsy shadow.
Ghosts, dreamt then gone.

The boys I hope, like me, will have long lives
And remember running down hills
In late light on the longest days.

June 23, 2013, Caty Powell

Caty, our office manager for many years. lives in Sonoma county and is still one of us.

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.

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Actions and Events

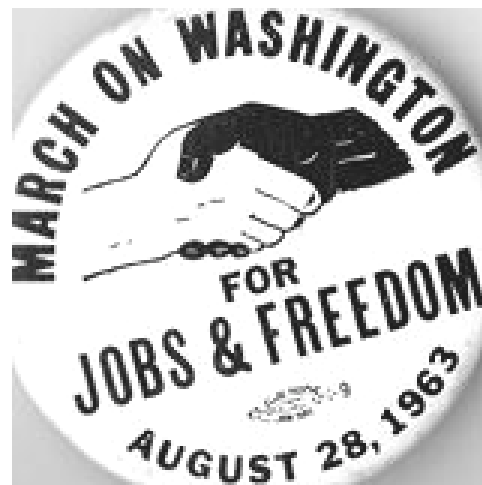
Thursday, August 1, Noon at Federal Building
7th & Mission Rally to Free Lynne Stewart

Thursday, August 1, 5:00PM, Mission High
School. Jazzie Collins Memorial.

The U.S. dropped the first atomic bomb on Hiroshima on August 6, 1945, and the second on Nagasaki on August 9, 1945. 2013 anniversary, a time to remember that the threat of nuclear weapons and a time to reflect on the global nuclear technology.

Saturday, August 3, 10AM March & Rally in
Richmond against Chevron & Climate Change
Richmond BART March to Chevron Refinery.

Friday, August 9, 8:30—10:30 AM, Westin Hotel
50 3rd Street Public Hearing on Stand Your
Ground Law, American Bar Assoc. To register
312-988-5408, email corej@americanbar.org



August 28, 2013 is the 50th Anniversary of the 1963 March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom and Martin Luther King Jr's "I

Have a Dream" speech." This action led to President Johnson signing the landmark 1964 Civil Rights Act.

