

GRAY PANTHERS OF SAN FRANCISCO

Vote NO on Prop A!
Retiree Health Care Trust Fund
don't mess with City Workers' Pensions!

Vote No on Prop B
Don't raise height limit on 8 Washington!

Vote NO on Prop C
Don't approve the city action to raising the height limit on 8 Washington!



Prop D
Better Prescription Drug Purchasing

October Membership Meeting
Tuesday October 15, 12:30-1:30 pm Business and Social
1:30—3:00pm November Ballot Measures Discussion
and Plans for Community Meeting on Prison Justice
Unitarian Universalist Center 1182Franklin@Geary

GRAY PANTHERS COMMITTEE MEETINGS & EVENTS

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

Board Meeting Wednesday, October 2,
12:30PM, Library, 100 Larkin, Stong Room,
first floor

Newsletter Committee Thursday,
October 3, 12:00PM

Book Club Monday, Oct 28, 10:30 AM in
the Main Library. for update 415-931-1126
Contact: 415-931-1126 to confirm
Tuesday, October 8, Lynne Stewart's
Birthday, Demonstrate for her release!
5:30 pm at Feinstein's office



Call For compassionate release of Lynne Stewart
Director of Bureau Prisons Samuels (202) 307-3250/3062, Attorney General
Holder(202) 353-1555, President Obama (202) 456-1111

September Meeting

October Meeting



Over 30 members and friends heard guest speakers speak on the Affordable Care Act—**for full report on the ACA see pg 5**

Words from Lynne Stewart

We are now once again on the wait. Carswell has my re-application. Of course it is even more urgent as the prognosis is shortened by Time itself and the progression of the evil disease –the Cancer, that is. I am engaged in a new chemo and it seems to give me aches and pains and a loss of stamina but nothing terribly debilitating. Thank goodness. Because of past experience (all of it!) we are putting into place a plan for local demos/vigils all over the country on October 8, my birthday, I am celebrating 74 wonderful years on the planet. **SAVE THE DATE.** Make it happen, Love, Struggle, Lynne

Emergency Protest for Lynne Stewart

On Oct 8, Let's meet at 5:30pm to protest at Dianne Feinstein's office, Market and Montgomery, sponsored by the Lynne Stewart Defense Committee, the National Lawyers Guild and others.

DON'T TAX my CREDIT UNION Alert! Protect Credit Unions!

Banks and lobbyist in Washington, D. C. are proposing putting taxes on credit unions! Credit unions return profits to members, unlike banks which get bailed out. Credit unions are made up of the members. That's why over 600,000 people transferred from the big banks after the 2009 bailout and joined credit unions. GP belongs to the Redwood Credit Union. Info at www.donttaxmycreditunion.org/

We will have reports and discussions on all propositions for the November ballot at the October general membership meeting and plans for a community meeting on prison justice.

Prop A: An Attack on Worker Benefits (an article from GP member)

A campaign to curtail, manipulate, and destroy the hard won benefits of Public Sector Workers piece by piece. There is a particularly deceptive piece of legislation headed for the November 5th ballot - Proposition A, Retirees HealthCare Trust Fund. This legislation locks up the Retiree's Healthcare Trust Fund until 2043, until it is "fully funded" per non-mandatory regulations but also allows the City to get at the money through the new language and to spend down accrued savings being contributed by City workers hired after 2009. Rules set up in Prop A potentially allow the City to spend down this fund without specifying amounts, conditions, or going to the voters.

Ban Fracking in California



Gov. Brown has signed SB4 claiming it provides protection & transparency to fracking in CA. It requires oil & gas companies to tell you they are fracking, to test ground water and report to residents, and "with few exceptions" disclose

chemicals used –unless concealment is covered in another law. Some environmental & progressive groups initially approved of SB4 believing it impossible to get a moratorium on fracking. But a few dropped support just before the vote arguing that the proposal was too weak, in not forcing drillers to disclose all needed information about chemicals injected in wells. As more financially strapped cities and municipalities are being duped into contracts offering millions of dollars to allow fracking, LA council proposes a moratorium on fracking. Recent facts reveal leaked radiation from long-buried radium by fracking into deep shale layers in Ohio. Think Monterey Shale Basin. ***The only solution to fracking is a complete ban.***

Secure Communities Update

On July 24 Supervisor John Avalos introduced an ordinance that reiterated standing SF policy that would prohibit officials from detaining someone at the request of the federal government (ICE) solely because one is suspected of being an undocumented immigrant. The ordinance is co-sponsored by 7 other supervisors. Similar legislation by Assemblyman Tom Ammiano was passed by the state legislature but was vetoed by Gov. Brown and was reintroduced this year as AB4. California Attorney General Kamala Harris issued an opinion stating that the federal detainees requests are not legally binding. San Francisco has repeatedly said that it will not be an agent of ICE.

Fukushima - The Down Side of Nuclear Power

In late August Japan's nuclear agency warned that fresh toxic leaks from the Fukushima nuclear plant post-earthquake and tsunami meltdown were leading to a major crisis. By the middle of September radiation levels jumped almost 18-fold near a tank containing contaminated water, a record high, enough to kill an unprotected person within hours. But overshadowing the tank leaks is a vast underground reservoir of contaminated water that has been leaking into the Pacific ocean since the meltdown 21/2 years ago. Would you like to live anywhere near Fukushima or Diablo Canyon? Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton (D, DC) has introduced *HR 1650:Nuclear Weapons Abolition and Economic Energy Conversion Act of 2013*. WILPF (Women's International League for Peace and Freedom) calls for not only abolishing nuclear weapons but closing down the whole nuclear chain - a nuclear free future.



Victory! For Domestic Workers

After years of work for domestic worker's rights, the CA Senate passed AB241. It is *not* the full Domestic Workers Bill of Rights we continue to fight for; it is a compromise to

get Gov. Brown to at least extend to domestic workers basic labor protections, overtime and meal breaks. Mujeres Unidas has led the fight for rights.

Gov. Brown, Sign AB 241 ahora!

Call (916) 445-2841, (510) 289-0336

Time to Change the Prison System

On Sept.5 after nine weeks, the Hunger Strikers collectively decided to suspend a third hunger strike action. They vowed to continue their fight for original demands not yet met and to proceed with a class action law suit, (in April a U. S. District Judge ruled that inmates held in solitary confinement, sometimes for decades, adequately demonstrated that California may be denying them protection from cruel and unusual punishment granting the plaintiffs the right to a trial).



Prisoners and supporters view this latest hunger strike as successful because of solidarity by supporters and because legislators, Ammiano and Hancock will challenge Gov. Brown

with hearings and propose legislation responding to prisoners' demands. As Ammiano said, "I hope I can bring an end to the disgraceful conditions that triggered the hunger strike."

In solidarity with the hunger strikers GP is organizing along with other community groups a forum to address strikers' demands and discuss plans to end not only current injustices, but in the long-term to abolish the archaic system itself. Any lingering doubts about the institutional racism, the inhumanity and criminality of the system are eliminated by reading Michelle Alexander's *The New Jim Crow:Mass:Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness*. www.newjimcrow.com

SB 105

Gov. Brown intends to avoid releasing nonviolent prisoners to comply with the U.S. Supreme Court requirement to reduce the population in prisons inmates to 137.5 % capacity by Dec. 31. SB 105 requested the federal court three judge panel to modify the current deadline. If the court agrees, the first \$75M saved of the \$315M authorized for additional capacity would be deposited into a Recidivism Reduction Fund. Otherwise, Brown will spend \$730,000 over 2 years to put inmates in a combination of private prisons, county jails and out-of-state lockups in a planned partnership between the powerful prison guard union and the nation's largest private prison corporation - permanently expand the prison system and reduce safety net program funds for prisoners.

You Can Bomb the World to Pieces But You Can't Bomb It into Peace"

Michael Franti, song



The Obama administration rush to war has been temporarily stopped along with a forced vote for an illegal bombing of Syria. Obama's full-court press to use "a limited military action" in response to alleged use of a chemical

attack by Assad on the people of Syria ended with a Russian led agreement that Syria would eliminate its chemical weapons. Still, war ships remain in the area, and Pelosi, Boxer & Feinstein jumped on the war train in spite of peoples' overwhelming opposition. Kerry, the winter soldier who testified to Congress against actions in the Vietnam war, *now* morphed into a hawk and turned to Henry Kissinger for advice! Obama may continue insisting he can act unilaterally without the Congress, or the unwilling UN Security council. Nearly 60% of people in the US objected to war- even the House Committee on Foreign Relations modified the administrations' original proposal—and Great Britain said, France also unwilling unless US Congress gives a go signal. The Russian offer and Syria agreement to dispose of Syria's chemical weapons at least gives time for more information and verifiable facts to emerge. The administration claims 1,429 deaths, a disputed number by humanitarian groups in the area, that opposition forces *have not* used chemical weapons, that shelling after the chemical weapons attack was to cover up the traces of the attack. None of these claims have been proven beyond our reasonable doubts!

None of us protesting this action condons the horrendous use of poisonous chemicals on people. We condemned the US use of Agent Orange in Vietnam, depleted uranium in Gulf War I, in Falluja, in the Iraq war and small pox infected blankets given to Native Americans in the 1880s.

To answer Pelosi, Boxer & Feinstein, people protested war on Syria , San Diego, Walnut Creek, Oakland, LA, Seattle, Tucson, Tokyo, Hawaii, Ashville, NC , and in 250 other cities.

More Unanswered Questions

Why this push to war on Syria, interfering in the Middle East—first Iraq, Libya, Syria, on to Africa? Although the UN report confirmed use of serin gas, it did not identify a perpetrator. Immediately, however, the U.S. & British delegates claimed the Syrian government responsible. They also are pushing for a resolution to still take military action *if necessary*. Recently, an enormous natural gas field off eastern coast of the Mediterranean would allow Syria, as well neighbors, to become transport point for a pipeline to world markets. In 2011, Damascus, Baghdad and Tehran agreed to build a pipeline through Iraq to get to Syria. Assad already agrees to let Russia control Syria's gas and any pipelines. Building and controlling pipelines to serve the insatiable dependence on fossil fuels have continually brought conflicts. The war in Afghanistan also revolves around the gigantic pipeline across that country.

Better Paths to Peace

Begin the deletion of chemical weapons in Syria, and move on to all counties including US at Fort Detrick, *supposedly* no longer a center of the American biological weapons; obey domestic and international laws and ratify international treaties—the United States has not ratified or joined 110 other nations in recognizing the International Criminal Court; stop interventions in other countries' internal issues; stop supplying arms to factions in Syria's civil war factions.

H.R. 3118 Alternative to Chained CPI

Rep. Linda Sanchez introduced the *Strengthening Social Security Act* in the U.S. House of Representatives. It would increase Social Security benefits by approximately \$70 per month by modifying the formula used to calculate benefits. This counters the chained CPI by increasing Social Security Cost of Living Adjustments (COLA's) using a formula reflecting the real living expenses of Social Security beneficiaries. The bill would gradually eliminating the payroll tax cap so that the wealthiest Americans contribute their fair share

Call Pelosi 415-556-4862 to co-sponsor HR3118

The Affordable Care Act—ObamaCare

If you have Medicare, the ACA doesn't apply to you. ACA does *not* give you access to health care; it gives access to health care insurance. We learned above facts at our September meeting from our four speakers—Claudia Chaufan, Jodie Reed, Gordon Mar, and Jim Chionsini. The ACA says everybody 18 - 65 must be eligible to buy health insurance. The insurance companies cannot exclude chronic illnesses and the sickest people. It sets up exchanges that provide information about available insurance plans, costs, coverage, co-pays, etc. You must buy some plan or pay a fine. It requires companies with 50 or more employees working 30 hours a week or more to provide health insurance for their workers. It does not regulate the cost of the insurance. It specifically bars negotiating lower prices on the cost of drugs. It is by and large not affordable for most people, not adequate and not universal. But it is a boon to insurance companies and Pharma. ACA does provide subsidies to help low income people pay the cost of insurance. Undocumented workers are not eligible to use the exchanges or get subsidies.

San Francisco has a program called Healthy SF. It says employers with 20 or more employees must pay into the City's Medical Reimbursement Account, which is run by the City to provide health care for workers. It says employers must cover anyone who works 8 hours a week or more—ACA says 30 hours a week or more, which has led employers to cut workers' hours to 29.5. It covers all workers, undocumented or not. The Chamber of Commerce and the Golden Gate Restaurant Association fought Healthy San Francisco from the start and they're now claiming the ACA makes it unnecessary.

Currently, to be eligible for MediCal, you must have no more than \$2,000 in the bank. The ACA eliminates assets, and bases eligibility for MediCal on income of \$15,780 or less if you are 64 years old or less. At age 65, eligibility for MediCal as a supplement to Medicare goes back to \$2,000 to determine eligibility. To be eligible for subsidies for long term services, the \$2,000 assets is the determinant whatever your age.

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SF GP Resolution for CARA Convention

California public governmental bodies, such as the state-wide California Community College Chancellor's Office and private governing institutions, such as the accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC), are exerting strong pressure to ultimately restructure community colleges across the state to eliminate community service and to serve only full-time students planning to transfer to 4-year colleges or to complete a limited range of vocational certificate programs. For example, ACCJC is currently threatening to withdraw accreditation and close City College of SF, the nation's largest community college, rated among the top dozen in the US, with huge community outreach programs, unless it greatly downsizes and eliminates its community mission. The statewide chancellor's office has appointed a single outside trustee who has taken over the powers of the locally elected Board of Trustees.

Therefore CARA resolves: CARA will join and participate in groupings which are dedicated to keeping California community colleges funded and functioning as public, community-based institutions, dedicated to fighting downsizing or privatization of these institutions. CARA CATS are encouraged to publicize, participate in, and otherwise help local efforts to fight downsizing or privatization of individual community colleges in their areas. CARA will contribute its knowledge and expertise in senior and disability issues to groupings seeking to protect and expand public adult education in California.

The Affordable Care Act—ObamaCare

Continued

To summarize: Health Care in the U.S. is a screwed up mess that explicitly rules out universal coverage or getting rid of the insurance corporations. By dominating the debate, ACA has effectively shifted public attention from any consideration of single payer to discussing ACA *supposed* advantages. Currently, there is no single payer proposal in the California legislature. A coalition, Campaign for Healthy California is organizing to get single payer on the 2016 ballot.

Gray Panthers of SF

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ADDRESS SERVICE
REQUESTED

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

Visit our Website or Call for membership information.

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Actions and Events

Saturday, Oct 5– Nov 17, 1 –4PM LGBT Senior Art Show, 1800 Market, *Vantage Points*.

Tuesday, October 8, Lynne Stewart's Birthday, Demonstrate for her release! 5:30 pm at Feinstein's office, Market and Montgomery, sponsored by the Lynne Stewart Defense Committee, the National Lawyers Guild

Thursday, October 10, 6-8PM, Bridging Solidarity & Power Together, ILWU local 34 801 2nd St @King Embarcadero \$25-100 up sliding scale. Jobs with Justice www.jwjsf.org

Friday, October 11, 10:00AM-12:00PM, 455 Golden Gate lower level "Confused about Health Care Reform?" Tom Ammiano, Mark Leno, Anna Rich, Sawait Hezchia, Elizabet Ziker

StoryCorps at SF libraries, schedule appt, 415-557-4277 record your story for the National Archives info & schedules go to sfpl.org/storycorps

Thursday, November 14, 10:00AM, Performance, *Mercy Killers*, personal tragedy of the healthcare system, sponsored by Single-Payer, UU Center, 1187 Franklin

October 1 –17, *Works Inspired by Ancestral Art Masters*, at the Main Library, 100 Larkin St Latino/Hispanic Meeting Room, lower level



Support our local bookstore, Modern Times, 2919 24th Street, Mon-Sat: 11am-9pm Sun: 11am-8pm

Happy 2nd Anniversary Occupy!

