

GRAY PANTHERS OF SAN FRANCISCO



**Alternative
Sentences
Treatment
Training
Programs**

**Going Beyond
The Bars**



**November Membership Meeting
The Controversial Proposed New SF Prison
Tuesday November 19, 12:30-1:00 pm Business and Social
1:00—3:00pm
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, November 6,
12:30PM, Library, 100 Larkin, Stong Room,
first floor**

**Book Club Monday, November 25, 10:30
AM in the Main Library.
for update**

**Newsletter Committee Thursday,
November 7, 12:00PM**

Contact: 415-931-1126 to confirm



**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**

Our October Meeting

The lively discussion centered on the propositions on the November ballot, chiefly Prop A and the attack on retired city workers health benefits. The people present agreed with the Board's recommendation to vote NO on A,B,and C and YES on D. Barbara reported that our member and good, good friend Faith Petric is now in hospice and passed around a card for us to send greetings to her. We will sure miss her guitar and songs.



Panthers on the Prowl!

We spoke at the rally & birthday celebration for Lynne Stewart. Mitzi, GP board member, told of the many times Lynne came to SF to speak to us on her case and visit with us for discussions and sharing meals. After the rally of support a new petition was called for to gain her compassionate release from prison. Go to lynnestewart.org to sign on!

GP opposing Prop A

We were one of the first to come out against Prop A. It is at the core a way to raid the pension funds. GP's Kay and Patricia pointed out the lies of Prop A, and the national trend to blame public sector workers for bankruptcy of cities rather than reduction of federal funds for programs caused by the trillions of spent on wars and billionaire tax breaks.



Victory for Civil Liberties

We won a major victory for civil liberties in the California Senate recently with the near unanimous passage of AB 351, a law that would ban state participation in federal programs that involve indefinite detention and would prohibit state law enforcement agencies from sharing information, collaborating in any way or otherwise assisting federal agencies that could arrest and hold people in a facility like Guantanamo Bay. AB 351 is a direct response to the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), which permits the arrest and indefinite detention of American citizens as a tool in the "War on Terror."

Our November Meeting

Speakers will discuss the pros and cons & cons of build a new \$290 million jail replacing the facilities currently housing roughly 600 inmates at the Hall of Justice.

SF GP Board of Directors Elections

The SF GP Network is governed by a Board of Directors, elected by the members at the December party. Each member is elected for a 2 year term; if reelected, may serve 2 consecutive terms before going off the Board for at least 1 year. The Board may have up to 25 currently dues-paying members. Duties include determining network programs and activities and active participation. At its January meeting the Board selects officers for the year - convener, co-convener, secretary, and treasurer. The Board meets on the first Wednesday of each month at the office or some other designated place like the library at 12:30 pm. Board meetings are open to all but only Board members can vote.

There were 14 members of the Board in 2013. Four of them have served 2 terms of 2 years each and are not eligible for re-election. Thank you Ila, Joanne, Earl, Ruthanne for your service. Members finishing the 2nd year of their first term are David, Denise, Caty & Harriet. On-going members in 2nd year of 2nd term are Patricia and Sonia. On-going members in the 2nd year of their first term are Lynn, Jack, Michael, & Mitzi. Nominations are now open for the 2014 board and will be open until elections in December. Anyone can nominate any SF GP member including themselves, by mail, email, phone or telling any board member.

From the CARA Die-In Protesting Cuts To Social Programs



Cross Fertilization



ALEC (American Legislative Exchange Council) is the DC-based consulting and lobbying group founded by Koch brothers and other deep pockets, that for years has been draft-

ing conservative legislation on behalf of big industry, and against environmental energy efforts, that they push into State Houses.

Many State Houses are conservative these days (an ALEC project particularly successful in the last election) and have been enacting ALEC's template legislation—like the Castle Doctrine, Stand Your Ground (via Trayvon Martin killing), other racist bills that effectively disenfranchise voters, anti-worker legislation, opposition to women's rights and much more.

SLAPP (Strategic Lawsuits Against Public Participation) is an acronym that describes “frivolous” lawsuits intended to intimidate and thus undermine free speech. Commentators on Yelp or other social media sites like Google, Facebook, and Microsoft can be “SLAPPED.” Free speech advocates, or commentators on social media sites cannot afford counter suits against big-buck opposition.

Awkward, it turns out, for social media: recently, Yelp's CEO pitched ALEC to create *anti*-SLAPP legislation so commentators on these sites can *not* be “SLAPPED.” What's weird is Google, Facebook, Microsoft and Yahoo have representatives on ALEC's communications and technology task force and have to ratify legislation. Yelp got a huge reaction: 2500 negative reviews and Twitter got a slew of angry tweets about ALEC and Yelp's relationship. Even another leftist organization the ACLU apparently finds it expedient to work with ALEC to draft legislation on issues like data privacy and limiting the ability of police to search mobile devices. A further twist, it's encouraging that many big companies have cancelled their memberships in ALEC as they have realized there were a host of unattractive laws associated with their names—Kraft, McDonald's Walgreen's, 50 others, Sallie Mae, and even Wal-Mart.

Fight Back for our Social Net

Republicans will now take aim at Medicare and Social Security benefits and raise the cry of *deficit reduction* as excuse for cutting these programs. “Since the president himself has proposed some of these things, it would seem logical that he would not turn that down,” said Rep. Senator John Cornyn. Obama indicates willingness to negotiate to reduce entitlement costs, and recently proposed reducing Medicare spending by \$371 billion over 10 years by taking money from provider groups including hospitals, managed-care plans and nursing homes. Obama's fiscal 2014 blueprint also proposes saving \$50 billion over a decade by requiring the wealthy to pay more for their Medicare Part B and Part D coverage starting in 2017.

The Budget Conference Committee of 29 members of Congress are now meeting to decide by Dec. 13 on a “compromise” reconciling the Senate and House budget proposals in order to avoid another government shutdown in January. Also they will decide what to do about the across-the-board spending cuts known as the sequester. Boehner as co-chair of the committee will call for the Chained Consumer Price Index calculating Social Security cost-of-living adjustments, a voucher program for Medicare - Déjà vu 2010 Simpson & Bowels Commission. Again the committee will meet behind closed-to -the-public doors. Sen. Bernie Sanders, a member of the committee on “our” side, stated he will work to end the absurdity of sequestration and to develop a budget which works for all Americans, to create the millions of jobs desperately need and not to balance the budget on the backs of working people, the elderly, the children, the sick and the poor.

And, this year, our Social Security checks will not reflect our true cost of living.

Anne Richardson [*Presente!*](#)

Anne Richardson, a GP member for many years died unexpectedly. She was a fervent behind-the-scenes advocate on health issues, worked with Single-Payer Now, and wrote articles in the Berkeley Daily Planet. She played the cello and was writing a book on William Tyndale, a 16th century radical Protestant. We will miss her.

ACA also Known as Obamacare

If you have Medicare, MediCal or both, the Affordable Care Act (ACA) does not apply to you.

The market for health insurance purchase mandated under the ACA opened Oct. 1. People have until the end of March to secure a health insurance plan without incurring a penalty. Under the ACA, each exchange must have two certified navigators, one of whom must be not-for-profit. The navigators are expected to provide "fair, impartial, and accurate information that assists consumers with submitting the eligibility application, clarifying distinctions about qualified health plans, and helping qualified individuals make informed decisions during the health plan selection process." They will also provide additional assistance to consumers who are disabled, do not speak English, or who are unfamiliar with health insurance.

The proposed rule also states that navigators cannot select a plan for their clients, and that they are not tasked with determining whether a client is eligible for a subsidy through the ACA.

Phillip Caper is a physician in Maine and a founding board member of Maine Allcare, a nonprofit group committed to making health care in Maine universal, accessible and affordable. He says that these health care exchanges "are providing a degree of complexity that is completely unnecessary. They contribute nothing to medical care. The only rationale for having as many different plans is to preserve the private insurance industry." And while the navigators provide good paying jobs to people, they are doing nothing towards the provision of health care. The proposed guidelines specify that while navigators do not have to be licensed insurance agents or brokers, they (*cont next column*)

- cannot be employed by an insurer;
- cannot receive compensation or rewards from carriers;
- must disclose what other lines of insurance they intended to sell during their work;
- must disclose any prior employment with health insurers in the previous five years; and must certify that they will abide by conflict of interest and impartiality standards developed by HHS.

Gray Panthers Supported BART Workers

We leafleted BART stations with message of support: "All of us enjoy the fruits of labor's struggles over the years. All of us deserve a good wage, a pension and healthcare. In the current attacks, especially on public sector workers, we must fight to keep union standards for all workers not Wal-Mart's." Many people did support BART workers as seen in an SF Chronicle letter from Jonathan Frank, former SF City employee, retired.

"Thank you, BART workers, for your militancy & follow-through. Thank you for the 40-hour workweek, lunch hour, vacations, on-the-job safety standards, universal suffrage, the Civil Rights Act—these and so many other benefits that we take for granted all issue from prior efforts like this recent strike. Not from the benevolence of management or of progressive government. The predominant media coverage highlighted the forbearance & patience of the public—Not one mention for of what we all owe workers like these who stood together..."

San Francisco Workers: KNOW YOUR RIGHTS!

All employees performing work in San Francisco have the right:

- To be paid the 2013 San Francisco **Minimum Wage** rate of **\$10.55/hour**
- To earn and take **paid sick leave** for their own medical care or to aid or care for a family member or designated person
- Employers with 20 or more employees (and nonprofits with 50 or more employees) must spend a minimum amount (set by law) on **health care** for each employee who works 8 or more hours per week in San Francisco

It is against the law for an employer to retaliate against an employee who exercises these rights. Workers are entitled to these rights regardless of immigration status.

If you have questions or would like to file a complaint, please contact the Office of Labor Standards Enforcement at 415-554-6292 or visit: www.sfgov.org/OLSE

A Real Secure Communities

The SF Board of Supervisors unanimously approved an ordinance barring police and sheriff personnel from detaining anyone solely on the basis of his/her immigration status, except for those CONVICTED in the past 7 years of a violent felony. Secure Communities enforcers had requested a hold on everybody arrested for any reason.

"What we are doing is disentangling the justice system from immigration" said Supervisor John Avalos, sponsor of the legislation. This reaffirms SF's long-standing refusal to be an agent of ICE. And on Oct. 5 Governor Jerry Brown signed AB 4, authored by Assemblyman Tom Ammiano, known as the Trust Act, based on the SF model, that makes it state law as well.

CEQA SAVED

CEQA, the California Environmental Quality Act, is designed to insure that the public and its representatives are well-informed on potential environmental impacts of building projects. In 2012 Supervisor Scott Wiener introduced legislation that would have weakened appeals of Environmental Impact Reports (EIRs) and strengthened the power of developers. In July the Board of Supervisors passed legislation that appeals of EIRs will be heard by the full Board, not a 3 member committee as proposed by Wiener; that the Planning Department must give more timely and informative reports of its actions; that when modifications of previously approved projects are made, the public can ask for a new EIR - all designed to keep CEQA protecting our environment as much as possible from the rapacious building industry.

Fukushima Is Here!



People spell out the words 'Fukushima is here' on Ocean Beach as part of a world-wide campaign to bring attention to the continuing danger following the disaster at the Japanese nuclear power plant.

The Rich Keep Getting Richer

Five years ago in September Lehman Bros collapsed, signaling the start of the recession. Since then supposedly the economy has more or less recovered. For some. For the top 1% whose earnings grew by 31% between 2009 and 2012. For the rest of us earnings went up by 0.4%, according to UC Berkeley economist Emmanuel Saez, based on IRS data. One report says median household income actually fell by 4.4% since 2009. These reports led Fortune Magazine (hardly a friend of the 99%) to comment "We have to...have the fortitude to change the tax code, specially rates on capital gains...we should increase the minimum wage". The federal minimum wage was last raised in July, 2009, to \$7.25/hour, which works out to \$15,080/year. In 1968 the minimum wage was \$1.60, which is \$10.74 in 2013 dollars or \$22,339 a year.

Forbes Magazine ranking of the richest puts Bill Gates no.1 with a net worth of \$72 billion, Warren Buffett no.2 worth \$58.5 billion, Larry Ellison at \$41 billion (local Oracle boy and America Cup man costing the City at least \$22 million) makes it as no.3 Google's Larry Page was no. 13 with \$24.9 billion and Sergey Brin, also Google, was 14th with \$24.4 billion. The combined value of the top 400 was \$ 2 TRILLION.

Victory

The Washington State Shorelines Hearings Board will reverse the permits issued to two major crude-by-rail shipping terminal services which had proposed constructing new oil terminals in Grays Harbor ,with the capacity to store 1.5 million barrels of crude oil or 38 million barrels of crude oil annually. The decision sends the proposals back to Washington Department of Ecology to conduct a complete review of the environmental risks and harms of transforming Grays Harbor into an industrial crude oil zone. The State Board has agreed with petitioners Quinault Indian Nation, Friends of Grays Harbor, Sierra Club, Surfrider Foundation, Grays Harbor Audubon, and Citizens for a Clean Harbor that the projects cannot proceed with only minimal environmental review. A full opinion from the Board explaining its decision will be issued in the coming weeks. "These projects aren't going forward," said Kristen Boyles, an attorney representing the Quinault Indian Nation.

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

Visit our Website or Call for membership information.

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Actions and Events

Tuesday, Nov 5, Election day. VOTE. Polls open 7AM-8PM. Our recommendations: No on A, B, C, Yes on D.

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

Thursday, Nov. 7, 10:00AM-1:00PM, Metropolitan Baptist Church, 1682 Newcomb *Connections for Healthy Aging Workshops* Free lunch. Info 415-359-1816, marcia.peterzell@comcast.net www.sfcommunityliving.org

Thursday, Nov. 7, 7PM, The Booksmith 1644 Haight Street, Bill Ayers discusses his book, PUBLIC ENEMY: Confessions of an American Dissident.

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

Thursday, Nov. 14, 10AM, 1187 Franklin St. in the MLK room. Join CARA, SDA, & Gray Panthers for a special Theatrical performance of “Mercy Killers” by Michael Milligan. The private stories about urgent health needs of thousands of people whom the system has failed. To reserve your free seats, call 415-235-0032 email jreid@californiaalliance.org. For more about the play, www.MercyKillersThePlay.com



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

