

# GRAY PANTHERS OF SAN FRANCISCO



**March Meeting**  
**Alliance of Californians for Community Empowerment**  
**Successor to ACORN**  
**March 18, 12:30 –3PM**  
**Unitarian Universalist Center**  
**1187 Franklin @ Geary**

## **GRAY PANTHERS COMMITTEE MEETINGS & EVENTS**

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

**Board Meeting Wednesday, March 5,**  
**12:30 at our office, 2940 16th @ Capp St**

**Newsletter Committee Thursday, March**  
**6, 12:00**

**Book Club Monday, March 31**  
**10:30 AM –Noon,**  
**Celtic Café, 142 McAllister,**  
**(between Hyde/Leavenworth)**



**HELP!** Many of us are behind on our dues. Please check the date on your mailing label, which indicates the due date. Yearly dues are \$30, more if you can, less if you can't.

## Our March Meeting

As we are facing rising evictions and foreclosures, activists are organizing and fighting back. We will hear from ACCE members who have been on the front lines raising up the voices of low income, immigrant and working families across California.

**NOTE: March 5 Board Meeting, 12:30 at our office, 2940 16th.**

### Activist Award

On Jan. 29, Michael Lyon received a life-time achievement award from the 99% coalition at a special dinner and program to honor activists working for peace, protecting the rights of people and the earth. Congratulations Michael!

### CANHR

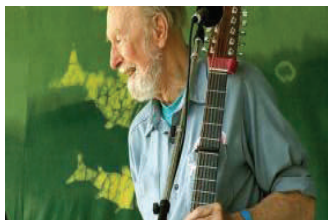
Earlier this year the news was filled with reports on the failure of state regulators to oversee assisted-living homes in Oakland, Castro Valley. This led to a bunch of proposals now in the legislature to improve the monitoring by the state Department of Social Services. Those proposals were formulated by the advocacy group the California Advocates for Nursing Home Reform (CANHR). CANHR was originally a committee of the SF Gray Panthers.

### Fundraising for Lynne Stewart

Lynne is out of jail and home getting better each day. She now needs help with her medical costs. While in prison her breast cancer spread due to her lack of medical care. She is facing deductibles, co-payments, and costs for healing methods and diet not covered by insurance.

Lynne has an indomitable spirit and is still active, "I fought lions, I fought tigers, and I'm not going to let cancer get me."

**DONATE: Make checks out to Lynne Stewart Organization 1070 Dean Street, Brooklyn, NY 11216**



**Pete Seeger Presente!**

**"If there's something wrong, speak up."**

## Our February Meeting

"We do NOT need "Medicare For All!" "We need "VA-care For All!" declared Marcia Angell, MD, to a startled audience of physician advocates for single-payer healthcare.

Medicare, she said, uses the same private, for-profit hospital chains, doctor groups, drug companies, and medical technology companies as the non-Medicare sector, and their profits are WORSE than the insurance companies. Moreover, she warned, unless the profits of these companies that deliver healthcare are reduced or eliminated, reducing healthcare costs will come from rationing our healthcare. Don't hope on promised innovations like electronic medical records, preventative care, special programs to manage chronic diseases, and standardizing care to plans to those that are proven to be effective. Those may improve healthcare, but they won't save much money. Fighting health care profits is what's key.

So even so-called traditional Medicare, is already largely privatized. We can also see how the Affordable Care Act puts Medicare in a financial vise. The ACA limits Medicare's year-to-year spending increases for patient care to a few points above overall inflation, but the prices that medical companies charge Medicare for patient care have no direct limits.

Medicine has advanced a lot since the mid-1960s: new drugs, new surgeries, new diagnostic tools, new medical devices, etc, but the medical industry has prevented Medicare covering these new advances, so we're forced into private for-profit entities to get up-to-date care. We can get medicines only through private, for-profit Medicare Part D drug plans. Most of us can't afford traditional Medicare Part B's 20% charge for expensive outpatient care like cancer treatment or X-rays, so we have to either join Medicare-HMOs like Kaiser, or buy Medigap policies like AARP or Anthem.

Medicare-for-All (single-payer) has wonderful goals of equal comprehensive for everyone, but it's not just a law we are trying to pass. It's part of the same struggle between workers and corporations that we fought to win Medicare in the 1960s and Social Security in the 1930s.

## Hundreds of Tenants Activist Fight Back

As hundreds packed a large room in the Tenderloin Middle School, Feb. 8, scores more of us had to be turned away for lack of room. This is a good thing! A coalition has come together to give grassroots solutions to the housing crisis in SF. As Gen Fujioka of Chinatown Community Development Center declared, “This is the beginning of a movement today.” The meeting culminated a series of neighborhood meetings with suggestions for plans to set goals agreed upon at the February 8 Convention.

People expressed concerns to maintain diversity in the city and to allow working class residents to stay here. Ideas presented include: *Dept. of rent control enforcement and compliance* to enforce current laws and investigate evictions; *Anti-speculation tax* on huge profits made by speculators buying then flipping houses for profit; *Excessive rents tax on new rentals* that exceed affordability; *Eviction moratorium* of a year freeze on evicting renters meeting lease requirements and stopping Ellis evictions; *Housing balance proposal* to make approval of new market-rate housing restricted depending on meeting the goals first of affordable housing; *Relocation funds*, introduced by Supervisor Campos to increase amounts for tenants evicted under Ellis Act and other “no-fault evictions; and a proposal similar to Supervisor Chiu’s legalizing illegal units proposal.

### Ellis Evictions Crimes Against Seniors

Lisa Gray-Garcia of Poor News Network, “Tiny”, accused SF landlords of being “dangerous criminals” who repeatedly evoke the Ellis Act to evict seniors. She cited CA Penal Code 368 which creates a specific category for crimes inflicting pain, mental or physical, or endangering seniors. According to Tiny elder eviction qualifies as a criminal act.

On Feb 18, Tenants Together took busloads to Sacramento to protest the Ellis Act & support SB391 to build more housing for low-income people, not more hi-rise condos for the rich!



A new battle in the Mission District’s long-drawn struggle with gentrification is being fought by a new

group, the Plaza 16 Coalition. Their message is stop development plans for two 10-story luxury towers at 1079 Mission/16th, next to Bart, the plaza where people gather, and near our Redstone building. “There are so many SRO (single room occupancy) residents in this area, so many working class families,” said Causa Justa. Just Cause (CJJC) Housing Rights organizer, Maria Zamudio. “If built, the height of these towers will keep Marshall Elementary School in a constant shadow...”

People Organizing to Demand Environmental & Economic Rights (PODER)’s Antonio Diaz explained, “Back in the day, residents protested the building of BART through the Mission because even then it was easy to see the eventual gentrification of the neighborhood. The issue lies in how to deal with problems in the plaza in a way that benefits the pre-existing community while maintaining the social dynamics of the neighborhood.” (Excerpt from *El Tecolote newspaper*)

*What would it mean to live  
in a city whose people were changing  
each other’s despair into hope?  
You yourself must change it.  
What would it feel like to know  
your country was changing?  
You yourself must change it.  
Though your life felt arduous  
new and unmapped and strange  
what would it mean to stand on the first  
page of the end of despair?”  
Dreams Before Waking – Adrienne Rich*

### Working for the Few

Oxfam reports that the world’s richest 1% control 1/2 of the planet’s wealth. The rest of us are worse off than before the recession, and 31 of the 85 richest people in the world are Americans. JP Morgan CEO Jamie Dimon made \$20 million last year! Today, 1/2 of us in U.S have less than \$10,000 in savings, and 86% believe we don’t have enough money for a comfortable retirement.



## Test Your Women's History IQ

1. Which mother led a march of child workers from the mills of Pennsylvania to Pres. Theodore Roosevelt's vacation home on Long Island?
2. She took her job as First Lady seriously, gathering information about concerns of workers, children, minorities and the poor. Who was this activist wife of a president?
3. Before the 1960s, farm workers in the US had nobody to fight for their rights. What part did Dolores Huerta play in changing this?
4. One of the most important Union spies during the Civil War was an ex-slave black woman. Can you name her?
5. Who was the last reigning Hawaiian monarch, deposed when American business and military interests wanted to annex Hawaii to the US?
6. She opened Hull House in a rundown Chicago neighborhood, a community center to improve conditions for poor immigrants, inspiring hundreds of other settlement houses. Who was she?
7. Her 1939 Easter Sunday Concert on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial drew a crowd of 75,000. Who was she and why was she singing there?
8. She is regarded as the greatest American-born ballerina. Her Father was chief of the Osage Indians. Can you name her?
9. Who is considered the mother of the environmental movement ?
10. Daughter and Granddaughter of Paiute Indian Chiefs from Nevada, she lectured extensively on the hardships brought on Native Americans by the US Government. Who was she?

1. Mary Harris "Mother" Jones. 2. Eleanor Roosevelt. 3. Dolores Huerta, co-founded the United Farm Workers in 1962 . 4. Harriet Tubman. 5. Queen Liliuokalani. 6. Jane Addams. 7. Marion Anderson, who had been barred by the DAR from Washington Constitution Hall because she was black. 8. Maria Tallchief. 9. Rachel Carson 10. Sarah Winnemucca

## International Women's Day

International Women's Day, March 8, is a day celebrating women's struggles & achievements. It is recognized each year around the world on all continents, whether divided by ethnic, linguistic cultural, economic or political differences. Ironically, the inspiration for IWD resulted from a tragedy that occurred in the U.S., though this country does not observe March 8 as an official holiday. In 1911, a garment factory in New York City, burst in flame in the Triangle Shirtwaist Shop. Women & children were routinely locked inside these factories for 10-12 hour days. During the fire, 146 women died, many jumping to their deaths trying to escape. That same year at the International Congress of Socialist Women in Copenhagen, March 8 was declared International Women's Day. That year a million men & women in countries around the world marched for women's right to vote, to hold public office, to receive vocational training and to end discrimination on the job. Women gained the right to vote in Russia after the Russian Revolution in 1917. After early feminists here in the U.S. endured humiliation and forced feedings in jail cells, women gained the right to vote in 1920. Congress has not yet, however, signed onto the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women, the Convention on the Rights of Children, or the ERA.



*Pity the downtrodden landlord  
Whose back is burdened and bent  
Respect his gray hairs  
Don't ask for repairs*

*And don't be behind with the rent.*

*British Pub Song*

According to Silicon Valley venture capitalist Tom Perkins, the 1% are being persecuted because they "get richer by creating opportunities for the others." This is called a rising tide floats all boats theory. But does it? Average income for the richest 1% increased 78% between 1987– 2011, according to the CA Budget Project. Income for the lowest 20% dropped 18%. Only the top 20% went up at all; 50% went down. The S&P gained 30% in 2013, its best year since 1997! About 95% of the income gains during that so-called recovery from the recession went to the wealthiest 1%. California's poverty rate is 24%. Is your boat floating up on the rising tide?

## Ron's Capers

Godfather venture capitalist/Iago to Mayor Lee Ron Conway thinks George Lucas has “offered a beacon (U.S. exceptionalist term) that says to the world, San Francisco will remain the capital of innovation. . . Let’s get to work!” He sent letters with over a 100 Silicon Valley signatures to pressure the Presidio Trust & Board members. Evelyn and Walter Haas Foundation, the Pisces Foundation, SD Bechtel group want to wait until there’s a clear vision; Rosalyn Swig says the board “faces a value-defining decision.” Nancy Pelosi has said Crissy Field should “pay for itself. Diane Feinstein said, “The Trust can only make recommendations,” She is not only rude but mistaken. The Trust has spoken and has chosen not to act at this time. Doyle Drive will underway until 2017. The presumption of the tech industry and our arrogant politicians, this selfish urgency, contests traditional and historical values and the sensible need for Doyle Drive to be completed with its planned landscaping before a museum is considered.

In another Silicon Valley to the rescue is “SV Angel” Ron Conway’s response to the Newtown Connecticut disaster. He urges a tech campaign to use technology to improve gun safety with smart guns. This is not a new idea, e.g., Armatrix has a gun that will only fire if it’s detected 10” from your radio circuited wristwatch; there are others. Ron’s idea is for a gun activated through the hand grip that recognizes its owner’s grasp.

Conway, funder of Smart Tech Foundation, says, “Let’s not rely on Washington.” Smart Tech got seed money from Conway, Google’s Eric Schmidt, Salesforce.com’s owner Marc Benioff, and is taking grant applications for the best ideas in gun safety. Conway has compared his smart gun with the iPhone: “It was a product that created its own market, on no one knew they wanted.”

Grants will go to “innovators” who want to commercialize their inventions.” Ron has said, ‘I have been at the forefront of some of the greatest innovation in history.’”

*Ron Conway was given the Crappies Award for Angel of Death in a demonstration against the 7th Annual Tech Crunchie Awards , Feb. 10, 2014.*

## Report on Nuclear Weapons

At the SF Main Library last month, Jackie Cabasso reported on the Conference for a Middle East Free of Nuclear Weapons held last December in Haifa. Women’s International League for Peace & Freedom (WILPF) helped sponsor her trip. Jackie is the Executive Director of the Western States Legal Foundation, which she has headed for many years and is a leading authority on nuclear weapons. She observed that weapons control in the Middle East has long been clouded by secrecy, in part by Israel which has neither confirmed nor denied possession of nuclear weapons. Mordecai Vanunu revealed its possession years ago, for which he was imprisoned. However, at this conference it was finally openly stated by members of the Israeli Knesset that indeed Israel possesses nuclear weapons: 80 warheads. Meanwhile, in Israel the topic of their nuclear weapons has been handled by referring to possession as “according to foreign sources”—which is also the name of a radio program which, underlines such governmental secrecy.

Jackie Cabasso also reported that in 1991 Egypt and Iran jointly proposed a nuclear-free Middle East zone. Locating the conference in Haifa was well selected as Jackie said, “Moses, Jesus, and Mohammed never visited there, so nothing is sacred there and it has enjoyed 100 years of cohabitation by Jews and Arabs.” She noted that there are 34 political parties in Israel, however, it’s illegal for anyone in Israel to have a Geiger counter, and the long-existing officially-denied Israeli Dimona reactor in the Negev Desert is negatively impacting the health of the nomadic Bedouin tribes that live there.

The good news, according to Jackie’s report-back, is that there’s a new wind blowing from Geneva for the abolition of all nuclear weapons, with 134 countries already being nuclear free zones.

### Some Good News on Fukushima

In Jan., 1,400 people filed a lawsuit against 3 companies manufacturing Japan’s Fukushima nuclear plant: GE, Hitachi & Toshiba. Plaintiffs say these companies should incur financial liability for the damage caused by the meltdown.

## 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

**Tuesday, March 4, MTA meeting, 4PM City Hall Rm 400 to extend Free MUNI for youth. Also Call for free passes for seniors. More information 415-864-8372 x 307**

**Tuesday, March 4, 5:30PM, Bernal Heights Library, 500 Cortland, Repeal Prop 13, land values and why rents are high!**

**Saturday, March 8, Noon-3PM, Yerba Buena Center, Celebrate International Women's Day with Domestic Workers and their campaign for AB-241, guaranteeing overtime pay.**

**Tuesday, March 11, City College is developing a 5-year Education Master Plan for a unified direction for its future and needs public ideas. Attend a meeting: Downtown Center 88 4th St. Room 725, 3-4:30, and 5:30-7pm, 415-267-6505  
Mission Center 1125 Valencia St Room 453, 3-4:30, and 5:30-7pm and Fill out CCSF on-line survey at <http://tinyurl.com/lyov88f>**

**Tuesday, March 11, Global Day of Action-3rd year Anniversary of Fukushima Nuclear disaster. 3-5PM, San Francisco Japanese Consulate 50 Fremont St./Mission St.**

**Thursday, March 13, Senior Disability Action General Membership meeting, 9AM-Noon, Unitarian Universalist Center, 1187 Franklin/ Geary. Breakfast, snacks with \$2 Lunch at noon**

**March 15—24, Youth Arts Festival, Asian Art Museum in Civic Center, Free**

**Monday, March 17, 2-4PM Koret Auditorium, Main Library, Community Forum on Medi-Cal Expansion, IHSS, & Long-Term Support Services, Issues & Answers!**

**Happy International Women's Day**

