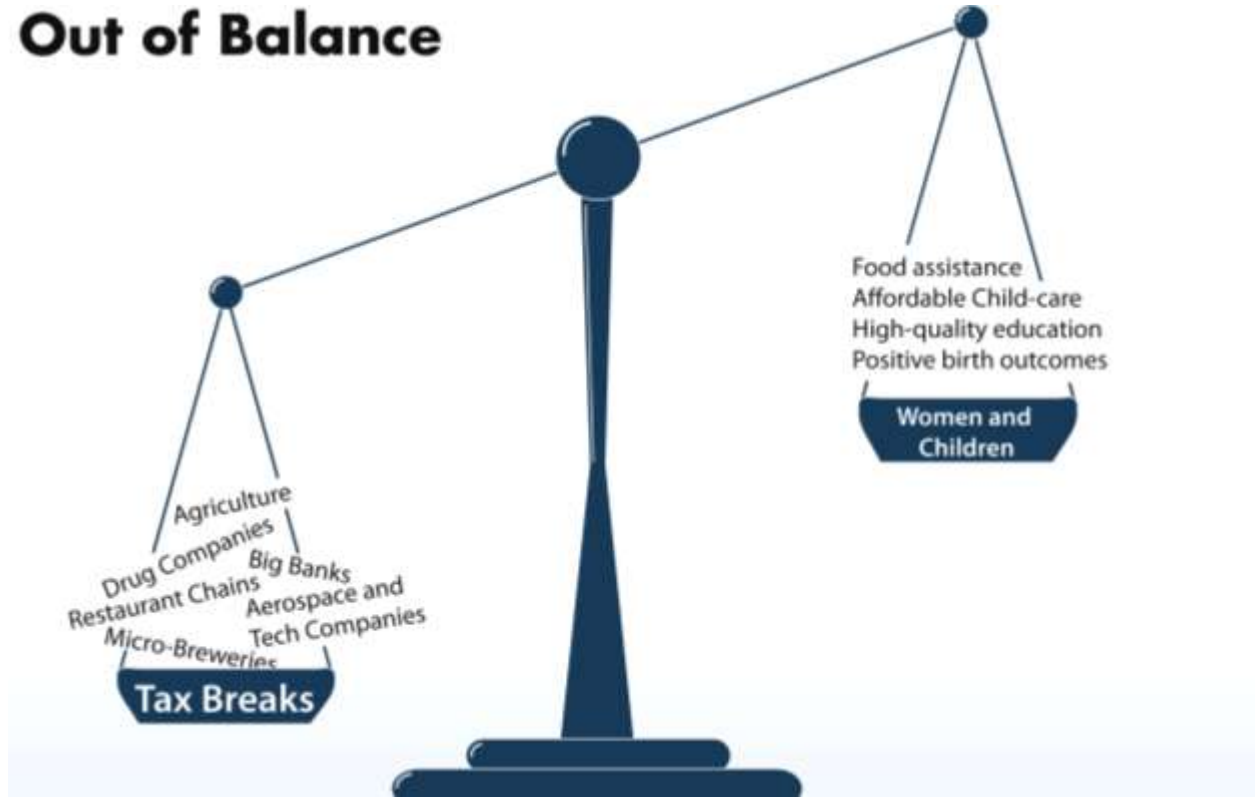


GRAY PANTHERS OF SAN FRANCISCO

Out of Balance



**We Need A Better Budget
Tuesday, July 15
12:30–3:00 PM
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, July 2, 12:30
at our office, 2940 16th @ Capp St**

**Book Club Monday, July 28, 10:30 AM –
12 Noon, Celtic Café, 142 McAllister,
(between Hyde/Leavenworth)**

**Newsletter Committee Thursday, July 3,
12:00 in the office**



Labor/Community Street Fair, July 5, 11 AM - 5 PM. Capp St. between 15th & 16th in the Mission. Free Admission. Musicians, Artist, Dancers, Health Care information. More info: 415-863-1957 or redstonelabortemple@gmail.com

June Meeting Two-Party Trap

Our speaker, Barry Hermanson, spoke of the need to have third-party presence in upcoming 2016 Presidential election to force our Representative Pelosi to discuss the issues. There were suggestions of ways to reach out to engage progressives.

The Sheriff and ICE

We reported previously on local jails keeping detainees for US Immigration & Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents, known as immigration detainees. SF Sheriff's deputies will no longer detain inmates solely on allegations that they are in the country illegally. "My long-held belief is that local law enforcement should not be in the civil immigration detainer business", said Sheriff Mirkarimi.

Oakland Pays Again

The city of Oakland will pay \$110,000 to the family of Alan Blueford to settle a federal civil rights lawsuit. Two Oakland policemen chased Blueford, who fell while running, and then shot him as he was trying to get up. This cop who fired his gun was cleared of criminal wrongdoing by Alameda County prosecutor. (Surprise?).

Fukushima Update

Last month a Japanese district court refused to allow a power company to restart its nuclear plant. All nuclear plants have been idle since the 2011 meltdown. Public distrust of utility operations and authorities remains. Thousands continue to protest nuclear power, and the misinformation about the dangers of exposure at the time of the disaster. many areas.



photo Carmen Lee

3rd Annual Howard Grayson LGBT Elder Life Conference

Gray Panthers co-sponsored the Howard Grayson conference on Health and Housing.

Jazzie Collins, long-time health and housing activist, was remembered and honored.

July Meeting

Both our city and the state have surplus in their budgets this year. Governor Brown talks of keeping that surplus in his "rainy day" fund—but a tsunami is upon us. Mayor Lee seems to think we should just depend on the largess of his favorite tech companies. Our health and human resources need funding now! The City budget is still in process, and we can tell our supervisors our priorities. Remember, the city now does a two-year budget.

Our August Meeting



Traditionally, we socialize for our meeting by attending together a performance of the SF Mime Troupe. Meet us Sunday, August 31, at **Dolores Park**, NOT Yerba Buena as in earlier years. Music starts 1:30 PM; show at 2:00 PM.

Anti-Displacement Initiative

The SF Anti-Displacement Coalition filed an anti-speculation tax for November ballot. It is backed by Eric Mar, David Campos, Jane Kim, and John Avalos. This idea originally came from the meetings of housing rights activists proposing higher rates. The Nov. ballot version puts a graduated real estate transfer tax on profits of short-term property flips, beginning in first year at 24%, and graduated down to 14% in 5 years. One of Harvey Milk's final proposals as a Supervisor was this same legislation—at 100%!

*Experience Corps engages older adults as tutors & mentors in low-income SF schools. Volunteers work with youth on the social-justice issue of our elementary-age literacy. Gray Panthers interested contact: Jono Cowgill, 415-706-6425
www.experiencecorpsbayarea.org*

!Presente!

Maya Angelou 1928-2014
Yuri Kochiyama 1921-2014
Ruby Dee 1922-2014

Minimum Wage = Minimum Living



Victories for \$15 an hour minimum wage have been

primed by the brave, low-wage Wal-Mart and fast-food workers across the country. Recently Seattle City Council, with pressure from a newly-elected socialist, passed a \$15 hourly wage—Richmond at \$12.30, & California Senate at \$13. Mayor Lee announced that he will place on the November ballot a measure for \$15 minimum wage in SF. He forced through a compromise with labor, which was proposing its own measure. Now, Lee boasts that his compromise is backed by labor, and the SF Labor Council held a rally to push the measure for the November ballot. Even the Chamber of Commerce *reluctantly* joined Lee. Clearly, any increase in wages helps workers and families. But, we need a living wage giving us “Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness.” In our city, numerous studies have revealed that a “minimum wage” required to actually live here would be \$30 an hour. Even if you find a full-time job at that wage, before taxes your monthly income would be \$4,800. The average rent for a one bedroom apartment has been estimated at \$3,000, still close to 63% of your income. The compromise offered by Lee actually only reaches the \$15 per hour in four years, 2018. At that rate who will be left?

Diana Pearce of the Center for Women’s Welfare coined the phrase, feminization of poverty. She also developed the Self-Sufficiency Standard calculating the minimum needed for food, housing, child care, transportation, health care and miscellaneous expenses, many of the basics not included in the CPI calculations for cost of living allowances (COLA). The Self-Sufficiency Standard calculators show that even at \$15 per hour, working full time, the single parent with two children still qualifies for a partial food stamp benefit that covers about a third of her food costs. So the question remains, is \$15 per hour actually a “living wage”?

It Is Our Community College

The Accrediting Commission for Community & Junior Colleges (ACCJC) is a private group approved and funded by the state Department of Education. It continues to threaten CCSF with denial of accreditation and a loss of state funds. California Community College Chancellor Brice Harris replaced the *elected* CCSF Board of Trustees with a state trustee last summer. In response, Tom Ammiano has introduced legislation to limit the ability of state officials to suspend an elected college board, and Mark Leno is pushing a bill that would amount to an end run around the ACCJC.

On June 11, ACCJC after pressure from the community held a clandestine and offered CCSF “another chance” for reaching accreditation. Early media reports espoused a victory for CCSF. But, careful reading of the ACCJC policy reveals just another



ultimatum which would deny CCSF’s ability to appeal any ACCJC decision or seek a review! CCSF is our community college with almost 80,000 students, a strong teachers’ union, an outreach program to the whole community, including adult educating and non-credit courses, as well as training in the trades. City Attorney Herrera’s lawsuit in the courts postpones any action until October. (See <http://wp.me/p3xLR-v7> for more detail.)

In Past Julys

- July 3, 1835**—Children strike at Paterson, NJ for 11 hour day and a 6 day week.
- July 19, 1848**—First Woman’s rights convention held in Seneca Falls, NY.
- July 11, 1905** — Niagara Movement, later the NAACP.
- July 22, 1910**—20 blacks lynched by mob in Palestine, TX.
- July, 16, 1934**—127,000 participate in SF general strike.
- July 16, 1945**—First atomic bomb exploded at Alamogordo, NM.
- July 20, 1951**—Mattachine Society, gay-rights organization, CA.
- July 11, 1968**— American Indian Movement founded.
- July 26, 1990**—Americans with Disabilities Act

We Can't Be Neutral on Net Neutrality

Net neutrality means anyone on the Internet can reach anyone else. You can access a small website, like Gray Panthers, just as easily & quickly as you can access major Internet portals like Google or Yahoo. Net neutrality is the Internet's protection against discrimination. Without net neutrality our internet access will be controlled by major media corporations, AT&T, Comcast, Verizon Communications and Time Warner Cable. They will give priority to those using their service by allowing content providers to pay for a "fast lane", creating a multi-tiered Internet, which puts most of us in the "slow lane!" Comcast & Verizon already are slowing traffic if websites are unwilling to pay more.

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) chairman Tom Wheeler formerly ran the wireless industry's lobbying organization, those who are now lobbying the FCC to end net neutrality. He uses a sleight of words trick to fool us into thinking he supports net neutrality; but, "you can't fool all the people this time."

Outside FCC offices, protesters with the *Occupy the FCC* set up tents and banners reading "Save the Internet." Activists want the FCC to reclassify broadband as a public utility, like our telephone which would then allow requirement of net neutrality rules. People would get the same service without discrimination. FCC has authority under Title II of the Communications Act to do so.

Submit your comments on the FCC proposal (Sooner is better).

*Visit FCC.gov/comments *Enter the Proceeding Number 14-28 (Protecting and Promoting the Open Internet).

*Fill out the form. Must provide your real name and address which will be publicly available.

*Click "Continue" to attach your document (use Bourse to attach. Then click "Confirm."

You can also call or write with your comments
1-888-CALL-FCC (1-888-225-5322)

**Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20554**

Big Oil Pay Back On Your Profits!



SB 1017 would place a 9.5% tax on oil production in CA, bringing an estimated \$2 billion annually to fund CA higher education, health & human services & state parks. Sen. Noreen Evans, D-Santa Rosa, has introduced the concept of an oil severance tax before and met with the same push-back from not only the oil industry, but now Gov Brown. The Senate Appropriations Committee in mid-May moved SB1017 into the "Suspense File", which is where opponents stow bills for delay or derail. "It ain't over yet," said Harrison "Jack" Tibbetts, a senior at UC Berkeley, who leads a statewide coalition pushing for the tax. He is asking supporters to call the offices of Sen. Kevin de León, chairman of the Appropriations Committee, to move the bill out of the Suspense File and put it to a vote on the Senate floor. The bill requires a two-thirds majority for passage. Since Brown has said he opposes any new taxes and that any proposed must go to the voters, proponents of an oil tax say the battle is likely headed to the ballot box. Earlier this month a poll showed that 81% of Californians support such a tax.

Some of Clean PowerSF Funds Restored

CleanPowerSF has a partial restoring of the \$19.5 million Mayor Lee swiped from the SFPUC funds set aside for the program, only after the Board of Supervisors budget & finance committee voted to reject the SFPUC budget proposal. According to Harlan Kelly the \$4 million and possibly \$7 million if GoSolar funds are prioritized for CleanPowerSF. Kelly & the mayor insist this is enough of the original \$19.5 million set aside as most of that was to cover the Shell contract. However, Shell was taken out of the proposal long before Mayor Lee dipped into the money.

At its June 24 meeting SFPUC discussed *launching its own program*, while The City is still exploring joining Marin Clean Energy. We will be watching!

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"Life is not measured by the number of breaths you take but by the moments that take your breath away."

SF: Stop Attacking MUNI Drivers!

Gray Panthers of San Francisco demands the City not press charges against MUNI drivers or their union and give drivers a fair contract.

Proposition G puts MUNI drivers in an impossible position: Wages must be determined by collective bargaining, but the City Charter prohibits them from striking. If drivers reject any contract proposal by MTA management, no matter how outrageous, the dispute must go to binding arbitration, which must side with management unless the arbitrator decides the drivers' interests "outweighs the public interest in efficient and reliable transit." Under these circumstances, drivers must accept whatever management proposes, or stage a sick-out. What did the City expect to happen?

MTA's proposed wage increases, together with increased health and pension costs, will result in a net loss in pay for drivers, who have not had a pay raise for four years, yet MTA has given up millions in parking revenue and still has a budget surplus. The contract proposal contains permanently lower wages for new hires, an affront to our principles of inter-generational solidarity.

The City's charge against the union of delaying the ratification vote is based on the City's hope that the drivers would be forced to vote before they had time to consider the implications of the proposed agreement. Similarly, the charge of delaying arbitration is based on the City's hope that the union would submit to a process with a pre-determined outcome without any resistance.

By taking actions against drivers and their union, the City is actively participating in a coercive labor process that will ultimately bring wider and more disruptive conflict to San Francisco. The City's mass media has long slandered drivers as greedy, incompetent, and rude, for performing some of the most difficult driving assignments in the country, but do not count on the media's ability to permanently turn worker against worker. In an economic environment where San Francisco is one of the most expensive cities in the country, and has the fastest-growing gap between rich and poor, do not assume workers will take this lying down. Times can change. Times will change.

The Post Offices Belong to the People

On July 26, 1775 Congress established the U.S. Post office. One mission of the new post office was to promote an informed citizenry. To that end Congress allowed newspaper printers to send each other newspapers for free, facilitating the flow of information from national and international sources to rural villages.



Today the threat is to privatize this service. At the moment there is an experiment of outsourcing mail to Staples Corporation, an office supply store. The U.S. government claims that the Post Office is not viable because of its considerable debt, but this debt was manufactured by Congress by requiring the Post Office to pre pay its pension obligations to postal workers by 75 years. From the beginning the Post Office was not meant to provide a profit, any more than we expect the Coast Guard, the Fire Department or other vital government services to provide profit. The drive to privatize the postal service has many negative consequences: no oversight and no familiar postal deliver employee in our neighborhood. It will also be inconvenient for a vast number of people in rural areas to access their mail.

Some progressives are trying to save the USPS by bringing back a past practice of the PO as a place for banking. From 1911 to 1967, the USPS offered interest-bearing accounts and other basic banking services which was discontinued by the '40s as big banking took over. Some 68 million Americans lack banking services and are subject to "Pay-Day loans" with enormous interest rates. As a government-supported, publicly accountable institution USPS could provide, banking abilities for low-income and homeless persons who are unable to maintain bank accents. It is time to resurrect postal banking as a more socially responsible alternative. Sen. Elizabeth Warren has officially endorsed this idea.



Tell your member of Congress to stop closing post offices. Save the Berkeley Post Office building, a national treasures in architecture and artworks dating back to 1930's.

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

July 5 to July 31 Laborfest 2014: Recognizing the 80th anniversary of the SF General Strike. See more events: www.laborfest.net. Call 415-642-8066.

Saturday, July 5, 11 AM to 5 PM, Labor and Community Street Fair: Capp St. between 15th & 16th Streets. Food, entertainment, and health care information. Sponsored by Redstone Labor Temple Association. Info at 415-863-1927.

Saturday, July 12, 7 PM, CD Release Party, Dave Welsh's *Class War*. Unitarian Church, 1924 Ceder (at Bonita), Berkeley. Come at 6 PM to socialize. Map at <http://goo.gl/maps/rU1Gm>

June 14-August 23, St Frances Square:50 years of Cooperative Living, SF Main Library History Center exhibit. See the history of this successful use of union funds for housing.

This co-op was built with funds from the ILWU and remains one of the most affordable living.

Wednesday, July 30th is Medicare's Birthday. Preserve it! Improve it! Give it to Everyone! This event marks the SF Kick-off of Campaign for a Healthy California to win Single-Payer and Medicare-For-All healthcare in California.

3:30-4:00 PM: Rally at Valencia / 22nd St.

4-5 PM: Town Hall Meeting at City College Mission Campus (across the street) to highlight the worse abuses of healthcare under the ACA and outline the strategy for the multi-year campaign to get rid of insurance companies!

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