

GRAY PANTHERS OF SAN FRANCISCO



A scene from the play, Ripple Effect SF Mime Troupe Archive

The Ripple Effect August 31

Dolores Park Music starts 1:30 PM; show at 2:00 PM.

Meet at top of the park, near the 20th Street side*

GRAY PANTHERS COMMITTEE MEETINGS & EVENTS

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

**Board Meeting Wednesday, August 6,
12:45, Main Library, Mary Louise Stong
room, first floor**

**Book Club Monday, August 25, 10:30 AM
–12 Noon, Celtic Café, 142 McAllister,
(between Hyde/Leavenworth)**

**Newsletter Committee, August 7, 12:30
at the office**

**Redstone Building the old Labor Temple,
100 year Anniversary Celebration
September 7, Open House**



*** Each year instead of our August general membership meeting we go together to the performance of the SF Mime Troupe and we will have chairs set up for us.**

NOTICE: August Board meeting will be held Wednesday, August 6, at the Main Library, the Stong Room on the first floor 12:45pm-3:15pm



Killer Cop

Andy Lopez was killed by 7 shots from the gun of Deputy Erick Gelhaus last October in Santa Rosa.

Lopez was carrying a plastic toy, an AK-47 rifle. Gelhaus was *behind* Lopez and *in no danger*, when he ordered Lopez to drop the gun. Lopez started to turn to look behind him and Gelhaus promptly fired at him until the *perceived* threat was removed. In too many cases officers seem to be trained to shoot first and often under all circumstances and inquire about innocence afterward. Sonoma County protesters against a seemingly unnecessary killing with overtones of racism and gun-happy cops demanded that the DA press criminal charges against Gelhaus. DA Jill Ravitch brought a so-called expert witness in police shooting cases, William Lewinski, who regularly testifies that police are justified by claims of self defense no matter what they do. Lewinski testified for BART officer Johannes Mehserle in the killing of Oscar Grant even though Grant was lying face down with an officer kneeling on his shoulder. Protesters are asking why Ravitch is using Lewinski as consultant when he has such a bias for police.

CPUC, PG&E, and Cagen

Robert Cagen is a retired lawyer who handled regulatory cases for the California Public Utilities Commission and was called back from retirement to handle PG&E cases after the San Bruno pipeline explosion in 2010. He pushed hard to make PGE produce pipeline testing records. CPUC legal staff refused to back him. When he protested they fired him! Is the CPUC a little too cozy with PG&E? Is the fox guarding the hen house? (see back page for upcoming hearings on PG&E rate increases.)

!Presente!
Fannie Biderman January 1918—May 2014

August Reminder

Come to Dolores Park, August 31 for SF Mime Troupe, Go to the top of the park, 20th street side and we will have chairs set up. Music 1:30 PM; show at 2:00 PM.

Past Augusts

Aug. 21, 1831 Nat Turner slave rebellion, Va.
Aug. 26, 1920 Ratification of 19th Amendment-women's right to vote.
Aug. 23, 1927 Sacco & Vanzetti executed in Mass.
Aug 6-9, 1945 US drops A-bombs on Hiroshima & Nagasaki
Aug 27, 1949 Mob attacks Paul Robeson concert.
Aug. 19, 1953 CIA coup overthrows Premier Mohammad Mossadegh
Aug. 12, 1961 Black students integrate Little Rock, High School, Ark.
Aug. 29, 1961 SNCC voter registration drive in South highlights Freedom Summer.
Aug. 28, 1963 Civil Rights March, Washington.
Aug. 21, 1971 Black Panther George Jackson killed in an escape attempt.
Aug. 9, 1974 Richard Nixon resigns as President.
Aug. 29, 2005 Hurricane Katrina kills over 1500 people.



Five all *male*, majority Justices on the Supreme Court handed down a ruling which Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, for the *minority*, stated will deny thousands of women coverage vital to their well-being and reproductive freedom.

housing, services, and community for LGBT seniors
openhouse

DIF ♀
Doing It For Ourselves

Seeking LGBT Women of Color 55+
Free Holistic Health Program *Doing It For Ourselves* a 9-week health education & support group starting Saturday, September 27th. Sponsored by **openhouse**, led by Facilitator Jana Rickerson, LCSW. contact Fairley Parson at Openhouse: (415) 728-0193 or fairley@openhouse-sf.org. The confidential research part of this project offers \$75 in gift cards for completing 3 surveys. The program is free.

LGBT PRIDE 2014

In June each year, Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender people around the globe honor the event that ignited the gay liberation movement—the revolt at the Stonewall bar in NYC, 1969. Police conducted a routine raid that night, but LGBT folks inside fought back and demonstrations continued for several days. The spirit spread across the country and Gay Liberation Fronts ushered in a militant gay movement. Yet, today there remain over 80 countries where it is illegal to be LGBT.

This year in SF Chelsea Manning was named as a Grand Marshall due to activists protest of her exclusion last year. Gray Panthers David & Denise joined progressives who formed a contingent including Chelsea Manning marchers, Housing Rights activists which started with Life Time Achievement Grand Marshall Judy Grahn, activist, poet, & writer. Patricia had the honor of riding with her. This year also honored as Grand Marshals, a transgender youth for confronting bullying at school, a trans woman who was at Stonewall and later took part in the 1971 Attica Prison rebellion, and Tommi Avicolti Mecca, housing rights activist. The entire march stretched from the Embarcadero to Civic Center and lasted for 5 hours.

Progressive groups are the only remaining spirit of the original militancy. Each year more corporations take part. Especially disturbing this year was tech industries participating despite their devastating effects on housing and evictions. Google was targeted by activists in solidarity with Brazilians protesting the World Cup connecting gentrification and evictions in the Bay Area with the violent displacement of Brazilians, over 150,000 working class and poor people. Housing Rights groups also stopped the March with a die-in drawing outlines of bodies on the pavement and labeling them “Evicted”.

The night before the March, 200 activists protested an event, *Pride at the Armory*, a prison-themed party, for its outrageous insensitivity to persons incarcerated. The protesters marched to 16th/Mission Plaza where SFPD arrested 7 people including the National Lawyers Guild legal observer. Trumped-up felony charges were dropped, however, after being held for several days.



And June 27, a block of Turk street was named for transwoman, Vicki Marlane



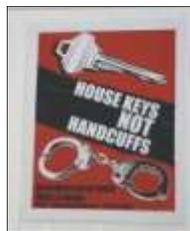
Power to the People

The SF Public Utilities Commission to thwart our choice for community control is proposing to set up its own renewable energy program. Progressives have constantly had to push SFPUC and Mayor Lee to follow the state law authorizing CCA, community choice aggregation, which allows communities to choose public power over a PGE monopoly. At a recent SFPUC hearing, representatives from 2 successful CCA programs, Marin & Sonoma, testified before the commission. Marin Clean Energy serves 77% of all energy customers in Marin & Richmond who are paying about the same as PGE customers, but receive twice the amount of green energy. Mayor Lee, who appoints commission members, consistently interferes with implementation of public power, and supports AB 2145 backed by utility companies to change a CCA rule affecting the way customers could join into a public power program. The Community Choice Act of 2002 (AB-117) allows not-for-profit community-based clean energy programs to aggregate users in a jurisdiction to buy purportedly greener and cheaper power from the same power generators that sell energy to protected monopolies like PG&E who mark up the cost and deliver the power to consumers. AB 2145 is now awaiting hearing in the Senate Appropriations Committee in early August. At least, an amendment was added to cancel the threat of opponents to remove the default that consumers are automatically enrolled and then able to opt out.

Our Community College

The Board of Governors overseeing our community colleges in California heard a resolution to authorize Community Colleges Chancellor, Brice Harris, to reappoint Robert Agrella to continue as special trustee of CCSF. Community, faculty and Board of Supervisors' called for reinstatement of the elected CCSF Board of Directors whose power was taken away last year with Agrella's appointment. July 16, the Accrediting Commission for Community & Junior Colleges filed a motion to stop procedure with the case brought by The City against ACCJC, but lost! Herrera's case is still set for October, and no closure for now. "The commission is run like star chamber behind closed doors & in total secrecy." said Phil Ting.

Homeless Bill of Rights



Right to move freely, rest, sleep & pray, and be protected in public spaces without discrimination.

Right to occupy a legally parked vehicle.

Right to serve food & eat in public.

Right to legal counsel if being prosecuted.

Right to 24-hour access to hygiene facilities.

Require judges to consider necessity defense in hearing homeless related cases. Wrap.org

University Mound Seniors Eviction!

University Mound, an assisted-living facility in Portola, is home to dozens of low-income seniors and people with disabilities. Alice Parker, 90-years old Rosie the Riveter, and others are now threatened with eviction. The home was sold in early July to Alta Vista, a private school whose president is none other than Zynga president, Renee Lawson. This must be the ultimate in the saga of tech sector replacing people of our city. However, our friends at AgeSong are stepping in to help, as part of an agreement that AgeSong would have first right refusal for any purchase offer. AgeSong has applied for a state license to run the home, but must match Alta Vista's offer. It is now a legal fight with court date set sometime in August. The eviction was set for July 31. Supervisor Campos asked the city attorney to see if the real estate can be rezoned to stop the closure.

Housing Rights Activists Fight Back

Eviction-Free SF protested realtor Urban Green at his office evicting 98-year old Mary Phillips from her unit at 55 Dolores. Urban "enhance" properties. They take over a building, convert property to Tenancy in Common (TIC) to sell each unit to an individual owner, which of course requires eviction of Mary, SF resident of 50 years. Supervisor Campos said this eviction is another grave problem caused by the rise in evictions, and that Urban Green follows predator practices.

ACCE protested the eviction of Sergio Silva-Lainez, his wife, Magaly, refugees from the Nicaraguan civil war. Now they face displacement by landlords bent on evicting them from their home of 23 years.

No More Unaffordable Housing

San Francisco is experiencing an anti-development backlash. Activists are working to stop evictions, speculators and hi-rise condo developers. Maximus Real Estate Partners has filed an application with the Planning Commission seeking approval for a \$175 million ten story, condo project designed to surround the 16th Street NEt BART Plaza. It would destroy Walgreen's, its parking lot on Capp Street, a Burger King, Hwa Lei Market, Mission Hunan restaurant, and City Club bar.

Maximus intends to revitalize the area including roof sun decks, Bar BQs and private party facilities atop the two ten-story towers with 351 units of housing and retail space that's supposed to "humanize" the Plaza by putting retailers around the perimeter. Maximus has been in SF for several years and is behind the massive re-development of Park Merced that demolished the rent-controlled units.

Our Gray Panthers' office is located in the Redstone Building across Capp Street from the proposed project. Not only our office but the nearby Marshall Elementary School playground will lose natural sunlight—school kids have testified before the School Board for the District, "we need the sunlight to grow." Paula Tejada of Chile Lindo Empanada Café says: "Construction noise and shadow can impede students' learning at Marshall, and for us, the construction process is so invasive, we'd have to close and re-open; it would definitely affect my small business by deterring my customer base."

The Plaza during daytime hours is populated by poor whites, people of color, seniors and disabled. Some come to the Plaza to gain daytime relief from their space in the SRO dwellings that surround the area. Opponents are tired of seeing our neighbors displaced from their homes and our city for benefit of a privileged few. Plaza 16 belongs to those that hang out here and work/live here. The 16th Street Coalition, Causa Justa (Just Cause), SFO Collaborative, La Colectiva, Housing Rights Committee, PODER, and SEIU Local 1021, the Gray Panthers, and ACCE want Maximus to abandon the project. GP sent a letter to the Planning Dept. strongly objecting to this development.

Freedom Summer and Summer 2014

In 1964, Freedom Summer brought thousands of students into the South to help register African Americans to vote. In North Carolina, 1940, 19-year-old Rosanell Eaton passed a literacy test to qualify for voting in that Jim Crow era. Today, at 93, voter ID laws could take away her right to vote because the name on her driver's license does not match the name on her voter registration card. Student ID cards by 2016 will not be accepted, same-day registration eliminated, or lacking a birth certificate can keep you from voting. In Texas you must show a photo ID, a handgun license will do, but not a state university ID. While most of the "deep" South has passed voter suppression laws, since 2013 so have others; Ohio, Maine, Montana, Wisconsin, Indiana, Iowa, Missouri, Kansas, Arizona. All of these laws make it harder to vote, particularly for African-Americans, the elderly, students and people with disabilities. And, of course many states do not allow prisoners or even ex-prisoners to vote.

Why Now?

The Voting Rights Act of 1965 passed with the belief that in 5 years the discrimination against Black voters would be resolved. However, it proved necessary to extend it in 1970, 1975, and 1982. The law was set to expire in August 2007, and was extended for another 25 years with the July 2007 reauthorization vote. But in 2013, the "summer of lost freedoms", the Supreme Court struck down a key plank of the Voting Rights Act, and Chief Justice Roberts affirmed Jim Crow state's rights, stating " ..It is for state legislatures to weigh the costs and benefits of possible changes to their election codes." Today's majority on the Supreme Court attacks not only voters' rights, but women's rights and workers' rights.

For 2014 Freedom Summer young organizers plan to register 50,000 new voters. The NAACP, ACLU, & 7college students are suing the state for violation of the 26th Amendment, which lowered the voting age to 18 & denial of student IDs, or registration at Motor Vehicle divisions at 17 if youth are 18 by election day denies their right to

"We owe our children, the most vulnerable citizens in our society, a life free of violence & fear." Nelson Mandela

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

Wednesday, Aug. 6, 7:00 PM. Harvey Wasserman: From Hiroshima to Fukushima in CA. Berkeley Fellowship of Unitarian Universalists 1924 Bonita (@Cedar, Berkeley. Fukushima Response Bay Area, and the BFUU Social Justice Committee. Suggested donation \$5-10. Wheelchair accessible.

Now to September 7, Main Library. Social Justice art exhibit, Serigrafia, Latino printmaking community on economic justice, human rights, civil liberties, Occupy, cultural celebrations.

Wednesday, August 20, 1-3PM, SDA Housing Collaborative Meeting, 1390 Mission, 2nd floor

Friday, August 22-24, HealthNOW!, the Labor Campaign for Single-Payer Health Care, & One Payer States, Friday, 7PM-10PM, CNA, 2000 Franklin Street, Oakland, NOW!/Labor Campaign workshops & closing plenary. ILWU Local 6 Hall, 99 Hegenberger Rd., Oakland, One Payer States programming www.healthcare-now.org/

Wednesday, August 27, 1PM & 6PM, CPUC Auditorium, 505 Van Ness. CPUC Public Hearing, on PG&E application for cost of service & rates for gas transmission for 2015-2017!

Library One City One Book, Tales of the City, by Armisted Maupin through October with talk by author at Main Library, Oct.23.

Save October 1 for the CARA Regional Convention, "Protecting Retirement Security", Richmond, CA. All Welcome, Registration \$30, Checks to CARA & mailed to CARA 600 Grand Ave Oakland, CA 94610 limited scholarships. Call 510-663-4086 for more information



Save CleanpowerSF
Check for updates on AB 2145
<http://www.no2145.org/take-action/>

