

GRAY PANTHERS OF SAN FRANCISCO



A mural inside the Redstone depicting the Emporium strike

Commemorating the Redstone at 100 And Discussion of the November Ballot Propositions Tuesday, September 16, 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, September 3,
12:30, Main Library, Stong Room**

**Book Club Monday, September 22,
Noon, Celtic Café, 142 McAllister,
(between Hyde/Leavenworth)**

**Newsletter Committee Thursday, Sep-
tember 4, 12:00 in the office, 2940 16th**

**Redstone Tour, September 7, 1:30PM,
open house at our GP office 12:30,**



CARA 2014 Regional Conference October 1, Richmond Memorial Auditorium, 403 Civic Center. Carpool information, CARA 510-663-4086.

Workshops on the housing crisis state-wide!



GP marched with Latino organizations Aug. 2, in a call for saving the children of Central America languishing

at the US-Mexican border and the children dying in Gaza. “No mas ninos deportados nuestros ninos son sagrados!” “No more children deported; our children are sacred.” Call the White House, 202-456-1111, tell Obama to use executive powers to save the children at the U.S. Mexican border and in Gaza.



We joined SDA and seniors and people with disabilities in blocking 2 Google buses Aug. 2 at 24th/Valencia while people gave testimonials on

how their lives are affected. Seniors are evicted in disproportionate numbers. We often live on fixed incomes and pay relatively low rent in rent-controlled apartments. The Anti-Eviction Mapping Project states 72 % of Ellis Act evictions from 2011-2013 were seniors, and 69% of these evictions happened within a 4 block radius of a Google stop.

Youth from ages 16 to 20 held a press conference at City Hall, Tuesday, Aug. 12, announcing their 5-day fast calling attention to the crisis of the children trapped at the U.S. Mexico border



and to set up a tent for donations. They returned to ICE headquarters to end their fast. . They asked us, “Put yourself in the kids shoes; they are just children.” Our GP convener presented a message of solidarity to the grateful, applauding youth. Part of the message read, “Gray Panthers as elders are committed to protecting our children, our future generations.”

September Meeting

Our meeting will be a slide presentation by Roger Herried of the Redstone Labor Temple Association to commemorate the 100th anniversary of Redstone Labor Temple Association We will also discuss recommendations on the upcoming state and local propositions on the November ballot.

Out- of-Control Police

The Oakland Police Department, the poster child of out-of-control police departments, was placed under federal overseer Robert Warshaw by the US District Court over 10 years ago. In July, Warshaw said OPD was making good progress toward complying with the 22 changes mandated in the lawsuit against the police accusing them of violating the rights of West Oakland residents, a mainly black neighborhood. It is will remain under federal oversight until it completes the required changes. Out-of-control police shot Michael Brown in Ferguson, MO. and stood by as he lay bleeding to death. SFPD committed the same crime 3 years ago killing Kenneth Harding for allegedly evading a \$2-bus fare. Sonoma Co. Sheriff Deputy shot Andy Lopez with no penalty.

Turn Off Your Engine

Our automobiles contribute to global warming. It is not easy to stop driving when our infrastructure does not allow us to get around without a car. But we do have control over engine idling. New York City offers a solution—an anti-idling law. Fines ranging from \$100 to \$2000 take effect for idling vehicles for more than 1 minute adjacent to schools and 3 minutes for the rest of NYC. \$28 million of fuel per year is wasted and children’s health is compromised. SF has no laws associated with idling cars and it should. A member of our Board has a temporary solution, passing out cards, especially to van drivers idling engines while waiting for passengers to board and exit their vehicles.

Letter to the Editor, SF Chronicle, GP Board Member Denise D’Anne

“ Can anything be more transparent than the militarization of our police departments? We are entering a state of fascism, which we fought hard to defeat in WWII. Protect and serve has morphed into intimidate and brutalize.”



The U.S. Congress just gave \$225 million in military aid to Israel.

Our Board discussed the crisis in Gaza and passed a resolution endorsing the “Block the Boat” action at the Oakland Port to stop weekly Israeli Zim ships from unloading cargo. We emphasized distinguishing among the Jewish people, Zionism, and the current extremist Netanyahu government so we do not fuel

the rise of anti-semitism. To counter the biased reporting of corporate media on this crisis, we considered showing films with background information, *Occupation 101* and *Harvest of Empire*. Jewish Voice for Peace notes Israel’s control of the airspace, water and borders affecting the economy, amount of food, & supplies across borders and ports. *The U.S. media distorts the real situation implying that Israel and people of Gaza have equal power.*

Aug. 16 began “Block the Boats” at ports in Oakland, Seattle, Tacoma, Long Beach, New York, Liverpool, & Sweden. Zim shipping, has carried military equipment for Israel since 1945. ILWU supported community activists in Oakland by refusing to cross the picket line 3 days & counting. ILWU’s progressive stands against war began in the 1930s refusing to unload cargo from Germany and Italy, and into the ‘80s with the anti-apartheid movement.

The Palestinian General Federation of Trade Unions called on workers around the world to refuse to handle Israeli cargo. In solidarity with them are the Congress of South African Trade Unions, National Union of Metal Workers of South Africa, Transport Workers Solidarity Committee, UNITE, British Trade Union. In Tel-Aviv 10,000 marched chanting “Gaza Children want to Live!”



American Israel Public Affairs Committee lobby accomplishments in Congress

AIPAC bills itself as the voice of American Jews. This claim is challenged by Jewish Voice for Peace and by J Street to provide an alternative to AIPAC. Until this challenge, AIPAC’s reactionary lobbying held sway, unquestioned with these results:

On August 1, the House and Senate overwhelmingly passed HR 76, which appropriates \$225 million for Iron Dome proposed by the bipartisan leadership of the Obama administration: Speaker of the House John Boehner (R-OH), Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV), Senate Republican Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY), House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy (R-CA), House Democratic Leader *Nancy Pelosi (D-CA)*, House Democratic Whip Steny Hoyer (D-MD), and Sens. Barbara Mikulski (D-MD), Lindsey Graham (R-SC), John McCain (R-AZ), Dick Durbin (D-IL) Charles Schumer (D-NY) and Mark Kirk (R-IL).

On July 30, the House of Representatives passed H R.107, denouncing the use of civilians as human shields by Hamas, and condemning the United Nations Human Rights Council’s biased commission of inquiry into Israel’s Gaza conflict.

On July 29, the Senate adopted SR 526, supporting Israel’s right to defend itself against terrorist attacks from Gaza. The resolution specified that a durable ceasefire should immediately end Hamas’ rocket attacks and lead to a demilitarization of Gaza. The bipartisan resolution, which was adopted by unanimous consent, was authored by Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV), Republican Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY), Foreign Relations Committee Chairman Robert Menendez (D-NJ) and Senator Bob Corker (R-TN).

On July 17, the Senate passed SR. 498, which expressed support for Israel as it acts to defend itself against Hamas. The bipartisan resolution was introduced by Sens. Lindsey Graham (R-SC), Robert Menendez (D-NJ), Kelly Ayotte (R-NH) and **C h a r l e s S c h u m e r (D - N Y)**.

On July 11, the House of Representatives passed a similar resolution (H. Res. 657). The resolution was spearheaded by Reps. Steve Israel (D-NY) and Tom Cole (R-OK).

Keep Our Land Line Connections

The transition to all-digital phone networks, coupled with a lack of policy-maker oversight could result in the elimination of our national telephone network, which provides service to virtually everyone in the United States. The duty to serve, the requirement that carriers make service available to everyone in that carrier's service territory, has been part of the telecommunications law since at least 1934.

Tracy Rosenberg talks about what happened in New York following Hurricane Sandy and Verizon's refusal to repair copper phone lines connections for New York residents "Obviously, Hurricane Sandy cut a swatch across the low-lying areas of New York City and New Jersey. In the wake of Hurricane Sandy, numerous New York residents of these areas complained that Verizon was basically engaging in forced migration. It was refusing to repair the copper phone lines that had been blown out by the hurricane, informing people their only option to restore telephone service was to upgrade. The problem is that numerous people didn't want voice-link wireless. They understood that there were certain levels of service that they could get from grounded land lines that they couldn't get from wireless. They didn't want to make this change. Consumers revolted. The responses from New York consumers, who essentially were unhappy with what was happening to them was enormous."

In response to this level of public uproar, the Utilities Commission went to court to cite Verizon for failing to abide by its consumer service agreements. Rosenberg says that "advocates nationwide can similarly protect their right to reliable phone service. In Southern California, the Utility Rate Payers' Network has recently filed a complaint with the CPUC of numerous consumers reporting when they ask for their copper land-line phone lines to be repaired who are being told they can't be repaired, and their only option is to upgrade to FIOS service, which is a fiber-based network at considerably higher costs.

We don't have to take no for an answer; we have a choice. If it is better for our budget and our lives to maintain copper land-line telephone service, we have that right, and we should exercise it."

The Fongs Stall on Ellis Act(s)

Sergio escaped from the U.S. implemented "Civil War" in Nicaragua in 1991 and came to SF with his wife, Magaly. Today, the Silva-Lainez family and their 3 children have weathered three Ellis Act evictions in their rent-controlled apartment at 24th & Bryant Streets (next to Punjab restaurant owned by Leona Fong). Like many entrepreneurial immigrants, Sergio carved out an electrician and handyman business while Magaly operates a nursery business. Over the years, Sergio has even done electrical work for these landlords.

ACCE (Alliance of Californians for Community Empowerment) with whom the Gray Panthers-SF are now affiliated has taken up the cause of this Ellis Act-besieged family with two actions: the first confronting three Fong businesses (the Punjab restaurant, health products store and a liquor store nearby) with a letter demanding a meeting with the family's lawyers.

The second, *the Real Estate Reality Tour*, began Sat. Aug. 16th with a rally at 24th Street BART plaza including megaphone, music, drumming, speeches and other hullabaloo and a march which visited each of the Fong's eight or so properties in the area with a *Certificate of Occupancy* duct-taped on each property designed like a diploma that declared the address and its market value. Each property approaches a million dollars. Also the Fongs were presented with a *Certificate of Membership in the Bad Landlord Club* of San Francisco.

ACCE members briefly invaded a Folsom Street Festival, other places in the Bernal/Mission area. The tour ended at 24th & Bryant in front of the Fongs' businesses. Employees had been alerted and locked their doors and snatched down their *diplomas*. The point of all of this was to embarrass the Fongs and demand that they cease ignoring the family so the Sergio Silva-Lainez family knows where it stands. These actions assure the Fongs that ACCE and Sergio are not going away. KGOTV filmed the action; see also Latin Bay Area: www.latinbayarea.com/events: then click Aug 16 on their calendar.

Also facebook [Sfacce@calorganize.org](https://www.facebook.com/Sfacce@calorganize.org) or call (415) 713-6260 for more information.

Save Medicare! We Will Fight!



July 30, we celebrate 49 years of Medicare. We, who work for a living, tried for national health care for over a century, but it took the social rebellion and upheaval of the 1960s to get Medicare.

It was supposed to cover everybody. Seniors and disabled people were supposed to be first, only because we needed it the most. We fought for Medicare

not only as a healthcare issue, but also as an anti-racist issue, because the federal Medicare program desegregated thousands of hospitals.

In 49 years, Medicare has expanded to include kidney disease, home health, hospice, and finally prescription drugs, but some expansions, particularly drugs, were only done through private, for-profit companies. Insurers and the healthcare industry would not let basic Medicare keep up with medical advances

We have successfully defended Medicare for 49 years. The hawks of austerity have always hated Medicare and Social Security. For years, it looked like a Democrats vs. Republican issue. Now Democrats are as eager as Republicans to cut "Entitlements". Are we entitled? Damn Right we're entitled! We paid for them all our working lives!

Will we be able to defend Medicare for another 49 years? Stave off raising the Medicare age to 67, or 1/4 of Medicare recipients paying extra because they're supposedly so rich? Will we stave off having cuts to Medicare services that pay for reasonable reimbursements to doctors? These are fights for our lives.

Before the Nazis took power in Germany the Weimar Republic re-defined old and disabled people, and war vets as a financial problem. It laid the foundation for the Nazis to redefine them as "useless eaters." We are NOT useless eaters! We will NOT go gently into that good night! We will fight! We will fight! We will fight!

In Septembers Past

Sept. 3, 1773 Peace Treaty signed with Britain, ends Revolutionary War.

Sept. 4, 1886 Geronimo, (Goyahkla) Apache Chief, surrenders Arizona Territory.

Sept. 21 1896 Militia sent to Leadville, CO, to break miners' strike.

Sept. 28, 1917 166 Wobblies (IWW) indicted for interfering with the war effort.

Sept. 18, 1947 CIA & National Security Council established under National Security Act.

Sept. 7, 1957 Founding of Daughters of Bilitis (DOB), pioneer lesbian organization in SF by Phyllis Lyon & Del Martin. (Lorraine Hansberry anonymously contributed to its magazine *The Ladder*).

Sept. 15, 1963 Four Black children killed in bombing of Sunday school in Birmingham AL.

Sept. 13, 1971 Prison uprising at Attica, NY, ends in death of 39 inmates.

Sept 11, 1973 President Salvador Allende killed in military coup in Chile backed by CIA.

Sept. 8, 1974 President Ford pardons former President Nixon.

Sept. 17, 2011 Occupy Wall Street begins.

A Seldom Mentioned Cost of Nuclear Power

The Southern California Edison Company, the LA equivalent to PG&E, estimates it will take 20 years and \$4.4 billion to dismantle the San Onofre nuclear power plant north of San Diego. Will the Southern California Edison Company want its customers to pay for this—like PG&E wants us to pay for their aftermath of the San Bruno explosion? The plant was shut down in 2012 when a small radiation leak led to the discovery of extensive damage to the tubes that carry radioactive water!



Let The People Vote!

The California Supreme Court banned us voters from instructing U.S. Congress to overturn the U.S. Supreme Court's ruling in

Citizens United v. Federal Elections Commission by removing Prop 49 from the November ballot. In a 2-1 decision, two Justices, up for retention on the Nov. ballot, voted to take away your rights. SB 1272 placed Proposition 49 on the ballot because the people of CA delivered more than 55,000 petition signatures, 40,000 emails, 176,000 faxes and made hundreds of visits to the Capital. www.yesonca49.com/

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

More Events <http://graypantherssf.igc.org/calendar.htm>

Saturday, Sept. 6, Main Library 10AM-4PM, Save MUNI. Discussion to strategize on opposing Prop A \$500 Million bond measure.

Sunday, Sept. 7, 12:30-4:00PM Open House, Tour, History presentation at the Redstone, 2940 16th, Food & entertainment.

Wednesday, Sept. 10, Campaign for Single Payer, 630 Valencia.

Thursday, Sept. 11, 9:30-Noon, SDA general membership, Unitarian Universalist Center, 1187 Franklin.

Fri, Sept 12, 6:30PM Sensible Cinema, "Freedom Summer", film of summer of 1964, Unitarian Universalist Center, 1187 Franklin Free, Donations appreciated.

Friday, Sept. 12, 5-8PM SDA Fundraiser Celebration, LGBT Center 1800 Market, \$75

Saturday Sept. 27, OWL SF Ballot Initiatives 10AM-Noon, Main Library
Hispanic Room (lower level Grove Street).

Monday, Sept. 29, "This Changes Everything:" Naomi Klein's new book, First Congregational Church, 345 Channing Way, Berkeley, 7:30PM.

Friday, Sept. 26, Unitarian Universalist Center, 6PM, Kathy Kelly and Prof. Stephen Zunes, Paths To Just Peace. Update on the Middle East. . Donation: \$10.00 - No one turned away for lack of funds

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