

# GRAY PANTHERS OF SAN FRANCISCO



For our October meeting, SF Gray Panthers will join with Senior & Disability Action and other housing rights groups to watch "Empress Hotel," on Tuesday, October 21, 2 PM, at Koret Auditorium in the Main Library.

## GRAY PANTHERS COMMITTEE MEETINGS & EVENTS

Meetings/events are at our office, 2940 16th St, Rm 200-4, *unless otherwise noted*

Board Meeting, Fri, Oct 3, 12:30, Main Library, 100 Larkin, 3rd Floor, Martin Paley Room

Book Club, Mon, Oct 27, 11:30AM  
Celtic Café, 142 McAllister (between Hyde & Leavenworth)

Newsletter Committee, Fri, Oct 10, 12:00 PM in our office.



**NOTE:**

*Our October Board meeting will be in different room at the Main Library, the Martin Paley Room, 3rd Floor! (see above information)*

## Redstone Building Turns 100

## Our October Meeting



Roger Herried presented an amazing slide show at the 100th Anniversary Celebration of the Redstone, Sept. 7.



It was an in-depth, political and economic analysis of the historical Redstone Labor Temple, and its connections, from the time of the past “robber barons” to the present ones!



Gray Panthers held an open house during that day, with Mitzi’s famous almond cookies. Later we joined everyone for a program of speakers and music by our friends Dave Welsh and the SF Labor Chorus.

## Gray Panthers at the Mime Troupe



Gray Panthers endured a sizzling sun to see the Mime Troupe at Dolores Park, which was torn up for renovation. To be honest, the park renovation hampered the Troupe’s performances and our enjoyment. Next year, back to Yerba Buena!

We will join Senior & Disability Action and other housing rights groups to watch “Empress Hotel,” a movie about the residents of a Tenderloin Single Room Occupancy hotel. **We will meet at 2 PM, on Tuesday, October 21, in the Koret Auditorium, in the lower level of the Main Library, 100 Larkin St. at Grove St.** It’s sponsored by the SRO Project, which, so far, has pushed the City to mandate grab bars in SRO bathrooms and working phone jacks in rooms.

## No Monster in the Mission

The greed of gentrification is especially rampant in the Mission neighborhood. And right outside our door, the Maximus developers are stepping up their plans for a 10 story high-rise with 351 expensive condos, in the 16th Street Plaza. Maximus is moving their application review process at the Planning Commission. This development has become a symbol of the battle over expensive condos versus low-income housing for the area. Most of us see this as a direct threat to the character of the neighborhood. The SFUSD and parents have met with Maximus on the building’s effects on near-by Marshall School. Maximus supposedly will confer with the school board and parents about their concerns. But from our interactions with the developer in the past, Maximus will present a reasonable face, then try to continue with what ever fits their overall plan. Think outside the bureaucratic box!

**Join the “No Monster in the Mission” march against gentrification and eviction. Saturday, Oct 4. 1 PM: Gather for march at 24th and York Sts. 3 PM: Festival at 16th/Mission.**

## Prevent Elder Abuse

You can report neglect or abuse to elders by calling 415-355-6700 or 800-814-0009. Anyone can make a confidential report if they know or suspect that an elderly person or adult with a disability who lives in San Francisco is being abused. The 24-hour hotline is staffed by social workers who respond to calls and ask a series of questions to determine if an emergency response is required. If necessary, an Emergency Response Worker will be dispatched to make a home visit to investigate.

## Gray Panther Recommendations for the November 2014 City Propositions

### **Prop A: NO SF Transportation & Road Improvement.**

Suggested improvements are only advisory (“may be”), but funding is mandatory (“shall”). It authorizes landlords to pass through 50% of property tax increases to tenants.

### **Prop E: NO Tax on Sugar-Sweetened Beverages.**

It is a regressive tax on the consumers, not the producers, of these dangerous drinks. Better solutions would be education on the special dangers of fructose sugar, and outright banning sales on City property.

### **Prop F: NO!!! Increase Pier 70 Height Limits.**

Would increase the height limit of this proposed development from 40 ft to 90 ft. This is our first use of our Prop B right-to-vote on individual project height limits, let’s use it well. Stop blocking our water front.

### **Prop G: YES!!! Transfer Tax on Residential Property Sold within 5 Years of Purchase.**

It is a much-needed stiff penalty on speculators who buy multi-unit residential buildings, evict the tenants, and resell the buildings within five years. This resulted from tenants organizing in the fight against increasing evictions. Don’t believe the real-estate speculators’ lies: This only applies to multi-unit buildings. It does NOT affect single family homes, condos, or other owner-occupied housing, including TICs.

### **Prop H: YES!!! Golden Gate Park Athletic Fields to be Kept as Grass With No Artificial Lighting.** Artificial turf is toxic, especially to children. Brilliant lighting until 10PM is anti-environmental.

### **Prop I: NO!!! Renovation of Playgrounds, Walking Trails, & Athletic Fields.**

Allows artificial turf and bright night-time lighting in Golden Gate Park. Is anti-Prop H because it nullifies Prop H if both pass but Prop I gets more votes. Remember: *Yes on H, No on I.*

### **Prop J: YES!!! Minimum Wage Increase to \$15 (by 2018).**

While \$15 an hour is not nearly enough to live on in San Francisco, it is a step in the right direction, and will help many working people and families.

### **Prop K: NO Affordable Housing.**

This resulted from strong-arm tactics by the Mayor to replace a better measure requiring extra steps for approval of market-rate housing as long as the City has less than 30% affordable housing. A “Yes” vote would confirm the Mayor’s inadequate plan for real low-income housing, and would increase deals with speculating developers.

### **Prop L: NO Policy Regarding Transportation Priorities.**

Encourages car use instead of improving public transportation.

There are propositions not included on this list of recommendations as we were unable to reach an agreement or consensus.



## Gray Panther Recommendations for the November 2014 State Propositions

**Prop 1: NO.** Water Quality, Supply, and Infrastructure Improvement Act of 2014  
The \$7.5 billion project opens the door to exporting Northern California water to Central and Southern California agri-business, and doesn't do what's needed for water conservation. Raises some dam levels, disrupting salmon.

**Prop 2: NO.** State Budget Stabilization Account  
It prioritizes repaying the debt at the expense of needed services for people. Worse yet, it is a constitutional amendment, so is very difficult to undo.

**Prop 45: YES!!!** Healthcare Insurance Rate Changes.  
Allows the State Insurance Commissioner to reject excessive increases in health insurance premiums! Rates nearly doubled in last 12 years. Don't be fooled by TV ads by insurance companies and hospital chains: Prop 45 will NOT interfere with Obamacare (35 states regulate rates now, and Commissioner already collects the data that insurance companies submit to "justify" rate increases. Prop 45 lets the Commissioner stop them!

**Prop 47: YES!!!** Criminal Sentences Misdemeanor Penalties.  
Non-serious, non-violent, drug or property crimes would be reduced to misdemeanors. Prison population would be greatly reduced, freeing money for useful purposes. Mass incarceration, with all its attending racism, would be reversed.



**Prop 49, against Citizens United, taken off ballot!** Our initiative to counter the U.S. Supreme Court Citizens United Case was removed from the ballot by the California Supreme Court, taking away our right to vote on the subject.



## **In Past Octobers**

Oct. 9, 1635: Roger Williams banished from Massachusetts for religious heresy.

Oct. 26, 1749: Black slavery legalized in Georgia.

Oct. 17, 1781: Colonial and French armies defeat British at Yorktown, the last major battle of Revolutionary War.

Oct. 4, 1877: Chief Joseph surrenders with starving remnant of the Nez Perce Tribe.

Oct. 23, 1915: 25,000 women march in New York City demanding suffrage.

Oct. 28, 1919: Congress overrides President Wilson's veto of Prohibition legislation.

Oct. 29, 1929: Stock market crashes, beginning the Great Depression.

Oct., 1950: US invades North Korea.

Oct. 4, 1957: Sputnik I launched by the Soviet Union.

Oct. 19, 1960: Martin Luther King Jr. and 52 others arrested in restaurant sit-down demonstration.

Oct. 15, 1969: 2 million Americans demonstrate nationwide against the Vietnam War.

Oct. 2, 1970: Environmental Protection Agency established.

Oct. 16, 1973: Henry Kissinger receives Nobel Peace Prize.

Oct. 26, 2001: President George W. Bush signs the US Patriot Act.

## **The Other 9/11**

In the U.S. 9/11 has a definite meaning. But in South America it has a different significance. On 9/11 in 1973 General Augusto Pinochet, with backing by the U.S. CIA, led a military coup in Chile to overthrow the elected President Salvador Allende. They ruled in a military dictatorship for 17 years. Chile's current President Michelle Bachelet was imprisoned during those years, along with over 40,000 others; many are still missing.

## **PG&E & CPUC: Two Peas in a Pod**

The 2010 pipeline explosion in San Bruno killed 8 people and destroyed 38 homes. This led to an ongoing examination of the cozy relationship between the Calif. Public Utilities Commission (CPUC), its president Michael Peevey, and PG&E, the utility corporation that CPUC is supposed to regulate. The latest examples, revealed in emails, exposed a PG&E vice-president and a Peevey staff member arranging which judge would hear one of the PG&E's rate cases. Peevey also consulted with PG&E to set the utility's fine for the San Bruno disaster. PG&E also obstructed federal investigation of pipeline testing & maintenance prior to the explosion and for 6 months after.

In the latest PG&E-CPUC collusion, the agency granted PG&E a total of \$2.4 billion in rate increases over the next three years. PG&E had originally asked for more than twice that much, claiming the increases were necessary for safety and reliability. CPUC included \$4.8 million in more smart meter spending and \$16 million in excessive, unwarranted maintenance costs for Diablo Canyon. The increases come on the heels of \$1 billion more that PG&E is already planning to charge customers for overdue pipeline maintenance, and an additional \$1 billion for a gas increase. Mark Toney, director of TURN, The Utility Reform Network, said "Today's CPUC decision alone means PG&E bills, on average, will go up almost \$100 a year." By 2017, customers' gas bills would be 45% more than in 2013. We have already paid PG&E \$300 million in rate increases during 2012-2014.

Meanwhile, PG&E continues to operate Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant under unsafe conditions, subjecting us to a disaster not unlike Fukushima if an earthquake occurs on the fault line located near the plant.

Is there any more blatant proof that we need real public utilities like CleanPowerSF? Over 2,000 cities in the country control their own "public utility." The obstruction to CleanPowerSF comes from Mayor Lee, who also has close ties to PG&E and SFPUC, and who continues to block clean power even though San Francisco could become 100% renewable, clean power today.

## 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 on our Web Calendar at <http://tinyurl.com/2gy6enb>

**Sat, Oct 4, 1PM—6 PM:** Plaza 16th Coalition's "No Monster in the Mission" march.

1 PM: Gather at 24th and York St.

3 PM: Festival at 16th/Mission BART Plaza.

**Sun, Oct 5, 9:30 AM:** "The Commons as Social Philosophy: The Earth Cannot Be Bartered as Private Property." Unitarian Center, 1187 Franklin.

**Wed, Oct 8, 1 PM:** Health Action Team Meeting. 1010 Mission (6th St).

**Wed, Oct 8, 7 PM:** Campaign for a Healthy California Meeting. (Single-Payer.) Community Rm, Mission Police Station, 630 Valencia (17th St).

**Wed, Oct 8, 7:30 PM:** "San Francisco's Housing Wars 2014." 518 Valencia (16th St).

**Thurs, Oct 9, 10 AM:** Senior & Disability Action Meeting. Unitarian Center, 1187 Franklin.

**Thurs, Oct 9, 1 PM:** CARA SF CAT Meeting. Unitarian Center, 1187 Franklin.

**Tues, Oct 14, 6:30 PM:** Bill McKibben at Grace Cathedral. 1100 California. \$15. City Box Office.

**Wed, Oct 15, 1 PM:** Senior & Disability Action Housing Collaborative. 1190 Mission (10th St)

**Sun, Oct 19, Time TBA:** Peace Coalition to End Wars forum, with Dennis Kucinich. Place TBA.

**Wed, Oct 22, 3 PM:** National Day to Stop Police Brutality Rally/March. Oscar Grant Plaza, Oakland, 14th/Broadway. (12th St. BART).

**Wed, Oct 22, 8 PM:** Book release: James Tracy, "Dispatches Against Displacement." 2183 Mission

**Sat. Oct. 25, 10AM, OWL-SF Meeting. Check for location, 415-989-4422.**

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