

GRAY PANTHERS OF SAN FRANCISCO

Cutting Us Out of the Circle



The SF Sunshine Ordinance Our Right to Know

Guest Speakers & Workshop
Tuesday, November 18, General Meeting
12:30–3PM
Unitarian Universalist Center
1187 Franklin @ Geary

GRAY PANTHERS COMMITTEE MEETINGS & EVENTS

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

Board Meeting Wednesday, November 5,
12:30, SF Main Library, Stong Room

Newsletter Committee Friday, November
7, Noon in the office

Book Club Monday, November 24, Noon,
Celtic Café, 142 McAllister,
(between Hyde/Leavenworth)



Remember To Vote Tuesday, November 4

G P Board Elections December Nominations Open Now!

October SDA/GP Meeting on SROs

Our meeting featured the movie, *The Empress Hotel*, and the making of a caring community. Roberta Goldman of the Empress said that over the years, "I have learned about love and intuition and trusting." Before the movie, a young woman passed out a flyer, "*SRO Hotel Elevator Questionnaire*" for community members to fill out about their experiences of elevator availability in public and transportation facilities conditions, and accessibility of buttons to operate.

If you'd like a questionnaire, you can contact elevators@sdaaction.org, or call Jessica or Tony at SDA (415) 546-1333, (415) 546-1333, or write SDA 1360 Mission Street, #400, SF, CA 94103.

In Past Novembers

November 1, 1995 The first all-races local government elections took place in South Africa, the end of the apartheid system.

November 2, 1962 The Cuban Missile Crisis.

November 9-10, 1938 Kristallnacht (the night of broken glass) occurred in Germany as Nazi mobs burned synagogues and vandalized Jewish shops.

November 13, 1956 The U.S. Supreme Court ruled that racial segregation on public buses was unconstitutional.

November 15, 1969 Largest antiwar rally in U.S. 250,000 in Wash. D.C., protest the Vietnam War.

November 19, 1978 Mass suicide occurred as Reverend Jim Jones led 900 Members of his Peoples Temple to their deaths.

November 20, 1969 Native Americans take over Alcatraz demanding a center of Native American studies. Occupation ends June 10, 1971.

November 22, 1963 in downtown Dallas, President John F. Kennedy assassinated.

November 24, 1969 The U.S. Army announced that Lt. William L. Calley had been charged with premeditated murder and massacre of civilians in the Vietnamese village of My Lai.

November 26, 1789 The first American holiday occurred, proclaimed by President George Washington to be Thanksgiving Day.

November 29, 1864 U.S. Army attacked and killed at least 400 Cheyenne and Arapahoe Indians at Sand Creek, Colorado after they had already surrendered.

November Meeting

Our City is in the midst of backdoor conversations leading to deals with tech venture capitalists, cave-ins to speculators, and evictions. We have a tool to fight these injustices in the Sunshine Ordinance. Come to our meeting, November 18 and learn more about this important tool and how to use it.

GP Board of Directors Election

The SF GP network is governed by a Board of Directors, elected for a 2-year term; if reelected may serve 2 consecutive terms before going off the Board for at least 1 year. The board may have up to 25 current, dues-paying members. Duties include determining network programs & activities, most importantly, active participation. At its January meeting the Board selects officers for the year—convener, co-convener, secretary, & treasurer. The Board meets on the 1st Wednesday of each month, at 12:30 (either in the office or a designated place). Meetings are open to all, but only board members may vote.

There were 7 active members in 2014. Two of them, Patricia & Sonia are not eligible for 2015. We thank them for their service. Ongoing members are David, Denise, in the 2nd year of their 2nd term, Frances in her 1st term. Eligible for a 2nd term, 2015, are Lynn, Michael & Mitzi. Nominations are open from now until December. Anyone can nominate any SF GP member including themselves, by mail, email or phone or telling any Board member. Nominated so far are Lynn, Michael, Mitzi & Ruthanne

Tribute to Harold

Every now and then we like to acknowledge our members who do the routine jobs that keep us going. This month we salute Harold who for years has helped package this newsletter and get it to the post office. On his arrival, all the workers greet him with big welcoming smiles. Now the post office requires paper work be done on-line prior to delivery. Thank you Harold for a job well-done.

We will have to find Harold another job!

[visit our Gray Panther Blog mlyon01.wordpress.com](http://mlyon01.wordpress.com)

400,000 March for Climate Change



National Gray Panthers joined in the historic People's Climate March in NYC. National Chair Jan BenDor observed onlookers cheering

as they saw the GP banner. "Throughout the March, we heard, 'I'm glad Gray Panthers are here.'" All of us, elders and young, raising our collective voices, demanding progress toward reversing climate change. In all, 2,646 events in 162 countries in the strongest call in history to end the climate crisis. In California, people marched in San Diego, LA, Sonoma, Santa Cruz Fresno, Sacramento, and 1500 here in Oakland. We can and must do this for our children and grandchildren.

More www.graypanthers.org
<http://peoplesclimate.org/wrap-up/>

No Monster in the Mission: Basta Ya!

The Plaza 16 Coalition, of more than 50 organizations, demonstrated & marched on Oct.4 to mark a year of fighting the Maximus Developers' 10-story hi-rise at 16th/Mission. This development threatens the unique diversity of the neighborhood and the Latino culture of the Mission. Laura Guzman of the Mission Neighborhood Resource Center said, "The Mission is a neighborhood of refuge for immigrants, both documented or not; they feel safe in the Mission."

The Mission has a large number of SROs. Owners dazzled by the prospects of high rents from well-paid tech workers will begin evictions. Already some SRO units are rented as Airbnbs. Sup. David Chiu's recent legislation, passed by the Board, gives a green light all over the city along with a pass on years in back taxes of \$25 million. Supervisors Campos, Kim, Yee, Mar, and Avalos voted against legislation.

The .01% of the 1%

For the 21st year, Bill Gates of Microsoft is the richest American, worth of \$81 billion, up \$9 billion from 2013. Warren Buffet is second, worth \$67 billion. Local Larry Ellison of Oracle is 3rd with \$50 billion. Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg is worth \$34 billion. Your social security check?

Job Well Done Tom Next?

Our progressive ally Tom Ammiano will be termed out this December from service as a member of the California State Assembly since 2008. He had previously been a member of the SF Board of Supervisors. In 1999, Tom mounted a last-minute, write-in campaign for mayor and succeeded in forcing a run-off against Willie Brown. Tom's popular vote count was 89,439, 39% of the votes. What a different city we might have today! Tom lost a bid for mayor in 2003 when Matt Gonzalez split the progressive vote. Now is it time for another run?

In 1975 Ammiano, a former public school teacher, became the first teacher in SF to publicly acknowledge being gay, and then helped defeat the Briggs Initiative, which would have banned any gay person from teaching in California. Tom served 8 years on the SF Board of Education and as president spearheaded a gay and lesbian sensitivity curriculum, one of the most diverse and inclusive in the United States.



Tom introduced a plethora of bills as supervisor & assembly-person: SF Health Care Security Ordinance—first city in the country providing single payer, universal healthcare. The Patient's Bill of Rights. The Domestic Partners Ordinance. Trust Act—stops excess use of immigration holds for deportation & limits use to criminals convicted of severe or violent felonies. Proposed limits on elected board of trustees for CCSF. Held hearings on solitary confinement in prisons (SHU). Advocated for prisoners rights and sentencing reforms. Introduced a moratorium on Ellis evictions, Domestic Workers Bill of Rights, Homeless Persons' Bill of Rights & Fairness Act, Elder Care Eviction Protections, Bullying Prevention in Schools, CleanPowerSF, Homeless Youth Services Bill, and more!

Gray Panthers enjoys a connection with Tom from working to pass a resolution confirming the principles of the UDHR in SF and in the state. Our Civil Liberties Human Rights committee met with Tom many times in his office. We share many social justice causes that Tom has championed and hope to continue working together.

Student Loans and Social Security

So much money has been spent on wars, tax breaks for the already wealthy, and funds lost to off-shore billionaire accounts. Why then are almost 140,000 people on social security having checks garnished for non-payment of student loans taken decades ago? The average monthly SS payment is \$1,200; any amount deducted leaves most beneficiaries well below the poverty line. And for pre-retirees the education debt now averages \$28,000. Student loans cannot be written off in a bankruptcy, unlike corporations, that declare chapter 11 bankruptcies quite often.

Many beneficiaries fall behind on payments then the total amount owed balloons due to compound interest. One person who fell behind for 8 years due to health issues on a loan of \$64,000 now faces \$126,000.

Senator Elizabeth Warren has introduced a bill that would allow people who borrowed for education before July, 2013, to refinance at lower interest rates which would help. Some of those prior loans had interest rates of 7-10%. The bill would also impose a tax increase on people making over \$1 million a year. If education were free as it is in, say Cuba, and as written in the UDHR, this epidemic for seniors and people with disabilities would not happen.

GP in the Western Edition Journal

The Western Edition HP Journal contacted the Gray Panthers and requested interviews with several of our members and sent a photographer to our office for pictures. To our surprise this became a feature front page story. However, the article contained an error the editor and the reporter have apologized for and completely understood. A retraction will run in their next issue (January). Here is the text as it appeared: "We've done a lot of work against anti-immigration and antiracism." The wording in the article jolts the readers, especially anyone not familiar with our organization. Better wording could clarify that we are an active anti-racist organization. Copies of the newsletter in the office. View on line"

<http://www.thewesternedition.com/?c=117&a=2558>

Our thanks to the Western Edition Journal.

Keep Our Pensions Out of Hedge Funds

For several months retirees of the City & County of SF have been fighting off a plan by the CIO William J. Coaker to invest 15% of our San Francisco Employees' Retirement System (SFERS) pension money into hedge funds. Hedge funds are considered high risks and even other pension fund investors are getting out of them! Retirees have pointed out the well-known problems of investing in hedge funds: lack of available pension fund monitors, exorbitant fees, no transparency— as one trustee in Kentucky's retirement system said, "I was not even allowed to see the contracts."

The National Assoc. of State Retirement Administrators reports about 1/4 of all pension funds are in riskier investments—hedge, venture capital. Public officials in recent years have shifted workers' pension money into hedge funds. However, California Public Employees' Retirement System (CALPERS) announced it will divest its entire \$4 billion of hedge funds. SF pension funds records reveal prior investments into a hedge fund program lost \$61 million and \$35 million in fees of retiree money. If you are a SF City & County retiree, or anyone not wanting SF money in hedge funds, email Jay.Huish@sfgov.org

Attend SFERS Board Meeting: Wed., Nov. 12, 1PM. SFERS relocated to 1145 Market 7th floor All future meetings of the Retirement Board and its Committees now at 1145 Market.

Revisionist Pentagon History

The Pentagon under Defense Sec. Chuck Hagel is planning a 50th commemoration of the Vietnam War costing \$15 million. Their website describes "a war of valor and honor." Few details have been released with the expected unveiling of exhibits and traveling exhibits, to begin on Memorial Day 2015. Anti-war activists, including Daniel Ellsberg, Tom Hayden— while agreeing that the veterans must be remembered and honored—object to the website's scant coverage of our huge anti-war actions, referring to the My Lai massacre as the My Lai "incident." Tom Hayden insists, "If you conduct a war, you shouldn't be in charge of narrating it." See for yourself!

<http://www.vietnamwar50th.com/>

The Call for LGBTQ Economic Justice

The LGBT Center at 1800 Market Street in San Francisco has set itself a major project and recently held an “Economic Justice” Town Hall in order to plan an event the week of Oct 19-25. The Center contacted people in the East for their participation, i.e., they advertise a BiCoastal event.

The meeting agenda contained a range of Key Issues: Housing/Homelessness; Employment, Health for everyone (especially trans-based Healthcare), Education, Public Benefits, Violence, Criminalization, Immigration, Youth. Sue Englander spoke up for the group to be sure to include LGBT elders and suggest they reach out to SDA, Dept of Aging, Gray Panthers. For example, the approach to Housing/Homelessness: take up the issue of lack of clean, safe and accessible shelters and housing programs; and at events, have breakout sessions for various sub-issues with facilitators who are knowledgeable and experienced in the particular issue.

What sort of actions are wanted to come out of the Economic Justice program? For example, decide how to reach indigenous (locally, try to engage Ohlone).

Eventually to go nation-wide.

We Need Mumia’s Voice!



The governor of Pennsylvania signed an unconstitutional act into law to the cheers of the legislature that purports to take away

Mumia’s speaking rights as well as those of formerly incarcerated people.

The bill, “Revictimization Relief Act,” would allow victims, District Attorneys, and the Attorney General to sue people who have been convicted of “personal injury” crimes for speaking out publicly causing a *victim of the crime* “mental anguish.” In an interview, Mumia cited several court decisions, one affirming his right to write after an attack on his release of *Live from Death Row*. Obviously this would apply to speech. This latest attack on Mumia is a response to the commencement speech he was invited to give at Goddard College, his alma mater. Listen to Mumia’s interview at www.democracynow.org/ October 27, 2014.

Our October Surprise!

We were shocked, perhaps not surprised, to hear the news that the SF Bay Guardian was shut down by SF Media Company. This conglomerate controlled 3 of the 4 newspapers in the City and chose to take away the voice that has been a progressive venue since 1966. Will SF Media shut down the website which gave us an archive of SF political history— including the most definitive account of the decades PG&E monopolized control of our energy? Bay Guardian had a print circulation of 50,000, along with 400,000 page views on its website each month

Guardian editor Steven T. Jones and staff only learned of the closure shortly after it finished, the famous “Best of the Bay” which brought in \$112,000. Staff planned to celebrate but were told instead that this was their final edition. Marke Bieschke, the Guardian publisher & Exec. Dir., said although perhaps 2 of the staff might be offered work with other publications, “the rest of us were told to pack up and get out. There’s a security guard at the door.” Remaining members intend to carry on the Guardian spirit in some other form.

Glenn G. Zuehls, the SF Media ax man, insists that the Guardian was not a viable business. Making it difficult for SF Media to provide “the *highest quality journalism* for our readers...” Would that quality be their other papers, *Examiner*? *SF Weekly*? As far as Bieschke knew, the Guardian was financially healthy. However, he was not kept informed of its status and was kept out of SF Media company decisions. In fact, in a recent meeting he was yelled at by Zuehls for an hour.

Independent media is even more important today, especially in our City. Until the return of the Guardian as we knew it, keep supporting independent media, indybay.org, and of course, your Gray Panther newsletter.

More from Tim Redman:

<http://48hillsonline.org/2014/10/16/can-save-newspaper-archives-history/>

Presente!
Ted Gullicksen
Director of Tenants Union since 1988

<http://missionlocal.org/2014/10/after-gullicksens-death-tenants-union-remembers/> memories of Ted

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

New exhibition, "Queer Past Becomes Present," GLBT History Museum, 4127 18th Street in the historic Castro; MW&Sat 11:00AM-7:00PM, Tues closed, 1st Wed of month, Free. 621-1107.

Tuesday, Nov. 11, 2-4PM, Community Meeting, Fix Elevators in SROs, Bayanihan Center, 1010 Mission(6thSt). 415-546-1333, info@sdaction.org

Wednesday, Nov. 12, 7PM, Campaign for Healthy California, Regional meeting, 630 Valencia/17th St, (16th St. BART, 14, 49, 22, & 33).

Friday, Nov. 14, 6PM, Palestine Speaks: Narratives of Life Under Occupation", editors discuss interviews taken in the past 4 years with people in West Bank, Gaza & Bethlehem on how lives are affected by the occupation.

Sunday, Nov. 16, 2-4PM, Surviving Human Tracking in Nepal, Arla S. Ertz, WILPF, on her work in Nepal with Nepali women trafficking survivors. SF Main Library, 100 Larkin, Latino Room in Lower Level.

Friday, Nov. 14, 6PM, Humanist Hall, 390 27th St., Oakland Fighting Jim Crow from Ferguson to the Bay Area - Black and Brown Lives Matter!

Saturday, Nov. 15, 10AM-5PM, Howard Zinn Bookfair, Mission High School 3750 18th St.

Friday, Nov. 21, ILWU, 801 2nd St., Jobs with Justice, Bridging Solidarity & Power Together, 6PM. 4th Anniversary Gala & Fundraiser.

Saturday, Nov.22, 9:30AM-6:30PM. Palace of Fine Arts 3301 Lyons St. Earth at Risk: The Justice and Sustainability Conference
www.earthatrisk.info

*See Gray Panther calendar website
for more activities*

