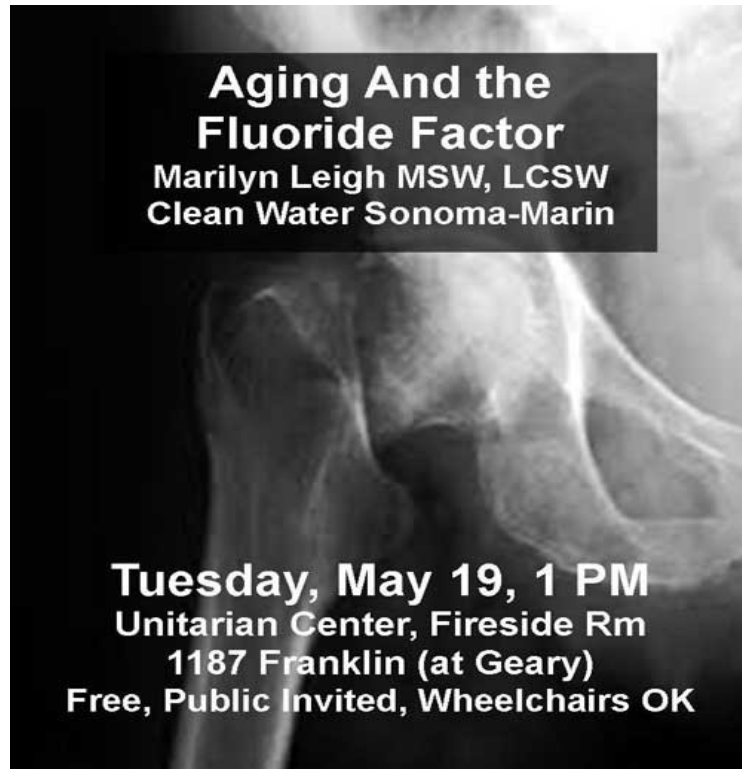


# GRAY PANTHERS OF SAN FRANCISCO



**Tuesday, May 19, General Meeting**  
**Speaker Marilyn Leigh**  
**Clean Water Marin/Sonoma Anti-Fluoridation**  
**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, May 6, 1PM,**  
**Main Library, Stong Room, 1st floor**

**Newsletter Committee Thursday, May 7,**  
**Noon discussion of June articles**

**Book Club Monday, May 25, Noon,**  
**Celtic Café, 142 McAllister,**  
**(between Hyde/Leavenworth)**



**Free Mumia Now!**

**Call Mahoney Prison Superintendent John Kerestes 570-773-2158 Ext. 8102 to allow Mumia's physician to create a treatment plan as well as immediately retain a diabetes specialist to examine him. Follow developments at [www.prisonradio.org/news/](http://www.prisonradio.org/news/)**

## April 14, 2015: No Business as Usual

A call for NO Business As Usual to stop police killings brought demonstrations and protest from coast to coast: San Francisco to New York City,



Boston, Baltimore, Detroit, Chicago, Ferguson, Houston, LA, Tucson, Seattle, Fresno, San Diego, San Jose, and Riverside, and others.

Many more voices are rising as resistance grows in every city. Gray Panthers took part in militant actions at City Hall, and in the Mission. Lynn Gavin spoke on the steps of City Hall, joined by co-convenor, Michael Lyon.



At City Hall, Supervisors Avalos and Campos spoke against police brutality and the large number of residents displaced by luxury housing in the Mission. Other speakers were UCSF students, clergy, and relatives of those who died in police custody. Following speeches, the group went inside City Hall to the Board of Supervisors meeting.



The second group of protestors marched from Mission and 24th Streets to City Hall with numerous displays of photos of people who died in police custody that were placed on banners held high as they marched. This group had many young organizers

who were very defiant as they held their banners marching and chanting. With military precision they marched into City Hall's rotunda chanting "Black Lives Matter." **Housing action: May 8. See back page for more information.**

More on Mission demonstration from indybay.org  
<http://tinyurl.com/mkdwtdga>

## April Meeting

We discussed the causes of the housing crisis and ways to solve it. See page 5 for a full report.

## May Meeting

"Aging and the Fluoride Factor" will be a discussion and review of the medical literature on hip fractures and various aging factors associated with water fluoridation and certain prescription drugs. She is active with Clean Water Marin/Sonoma Anti-Fluoridation group.

## In Mays Past

**May 1, Yearly:** International Workers Day

**May 5, Yearly:** Cinco de Mayo in Mexico, a national holiday in remembrance of the Battle of Puebla in 1862. Outnumbered Mexican troops defeated the invading French forces of Napoleon III.

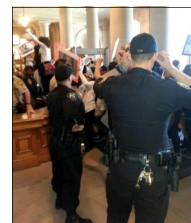
**May 1, 2004:** Eight former Communist nations and two Mediterranean countries joined the European Union (EU) joining 15 countries already in the EU, representing in all 450 million persons.

**May 10, 1994:** Former political prisoner Nelson Mandela inaugurated as president of South Africa. Mandela won first free election in South Africa.

**May 4, 1970:** At Kent State University, four were killed by National Guardsmen who opened fire on a crowd of 1,000 students protesting Nixon's invasion of Cambodia. Students at Jackson State, a Black college, were also killed. Demonstrations across America resulting in the temporary closing of over 450 colleges and universities

**May 5, 1893:** Wall Street Crash of 1893 began by the end of the year, 600 banks closed, several big railroads were in receivership, 15,000 businesses went bankrupt, and 20 percent were unemployed. It was the worst economic crisis in U.S. history *up to that time.*

**May 4, 1886:** The Haymarket Square Riot in Chicago after 180 police officers advanced on 1,300 at the labor activists demo. A bomb was thrown. and 4 anarchists, charged with conspiracy to kill, were convicted and hanged.



## Justice for Domestic Workers!

On March 19, hundreds of domestic workers and their allies put California on trial, demanding justice for the State's 200,000 housekeepers, nannies, and personal attendants who help frail seniors and people with disabilities. Domestic workers from the US, Jordan, Morocco, and South Africa joined them, as well as our friends in CARA and MUA.



A federal Department of Labor regulation had granted minimum wage and overtime pay to domestic workers, but it was recently struck down by a Illinois court.

In anticipation of this DOL regulation, California has appropriated billions for overtime pay for the State's 360,000 IHSS workers who provide home care to 460,000 low income Californians. But Brown now refuses to pay overtime, using the strike-down of the federal rule as an excuse. In addition, IHSS clients suffered a 7% cut in hours of care during the recession, which has not been restored despite billions in budget surplus now. IHSS workers and clients are demanding overtime pay and restoration of hours of care for clients.

90% of homecare workers are women, and 73% are people of color. Historically, largely Black and Latin domestic and farm workers were excluded from Federal minimum wage and overtime protections, as well as the right to form unions, and protection from race, sex, religion, age, or disability discrimination.

We're facing a massive crisis in caring for young, old, and disabled people. 11,000 people turn 65 each day; 1-2 million new workers are needed.

## SF Public Library Mining Your Data?

The San Francisco Public Library revised its privacy policy despite concerns by many users. The library implemented a new catalog using "BiblioCommons," a Canadian-based private company that designs interactive social media for public libraries. It is the library catalog for 41 libraries in Canada, 35 in the U.S., 4 libraries in Australia and New Zealand. BiblioCommons replaces all search and account management functionality of the library's traditional online catalog. The company states, "We discovered the power of the local Online Public Access Catalog (OPAC) as a gateway to broad participation and engagement." Another definition could be "data mining." BiblioCommons' privacy policy says the company "will not share, gift, sell, rent or trade your personal information," but includes an exception for "enforceable governmental requests."

Under the contract BiblioCommons will be paid \$469,940 for providing a catalog to the San Francisco Public Library. Peter Warfield, Executive Director of the Library Users Association, said the move to BiblioCommons means that parents or guardians of teenage library users, (ages 13-17) whose borrowing and other records are currently confidential at SFPL, would be especially hard hit. Under BiblioCommons' privacy policy, Warfield also points out parents or guardians "may make a request to review and alter the personal information collected from their children on this service, or to deactivate their child's BiblioCommons account." Ray Hartz, director San Francisco Open Government, says "The library is not just incorporating the library's privacy policy but the BiblioCommons terms of use." He does not expect anyone in the management of the library to protect the privacy rights of a library user.

Meanwhile as investigation and objections continue, we can still use the prior system: On website, [sfpl.org](http://sfpl.org), click Enter and go to the bottom of the page and select choice "Classic Catalog".

*Next visit to your local library, you can fill out a complaint to leave with the librarian. Some librarians are not pleased with the system and/or the way it was implemented. GP members are planning a day of action at the Main Library.*



## Misplaced Water Cuts

After years of drought, Gov. Brown mandated water cuts, not mentioning agribusiness or fracking. Brown originally mandated a 25% reduction to each of the state's 400 local water agencies. Now, agencies whose people reduced water use in the past will not have to reduce as much as other agencies.

Individuals are told to cut our water usage, but we account for only a small percent of the total state usage. Per capita SF residents average 78 gal. per day, one of the lowest. Santa Cruz is the lowest, at 46 gal. Palm Springs is the highest at 736, and Sacramento is 279.

Urban residents could reduce usage by 40% - 60 % by replacing lawns with drought-tolerant plants. We could recycle treated water for non-drinking purposes. "If you are in a wealthier community, people tend to use more water because it is inexpensive for them," said Chris Brown, of the California Urban Water Conservation Council.

Owners of large farms who get their water outside local agencies *will not* come under the 25% guidelines. Agribusiness sucks 80% of our water, and could reduce its water use 17% to 22 % with more efficient management, and by ending mono crop corporate farming. Stewart & Lynda Resnick, \$4.2 billionaire friends of Gov. Brown and Sen. Feinstein, are the country's largest almond growers, with more than 70,000 acres of almonds and pistachios. Resnick's 940,000 acre Paramount Farms controls all the phases of production, growing, processing, and marketing. Paramount gets most of its water from a *public* underground reservoir. In 1994, the Resnicks' holding company gained a controlling interest in the water bank, perhaps due to their large campaign donations.

Fracking continues; yet the California Department of Conservation, Division of Oil, Gas & Geothermal Resources, and the Water Resources Control Board together could not explain why they allowed 2,000 injections from oil & gas to contaminate our precious aquifer. The state's once-prolific salmon run barely exists, and for 27 years, Nestlé's plant continues taking 80 million gallons of water a year from Sacramento aquifers for *bottling water*.

## SFPD: Not a Few Bad Apples

"When the character of a man is not clear to you, look at his friends," is a Japanese quote. On March 13, 2015 the FBI, to show cause to deny bail for SFPD officer Ian Furminger, released excerpts of racist and homophobic texts from Furminger and other police. SF Police Chief Greg Suhr is moving to fire some officers, but what about Suhr himself?

SF Police Chief Greg Suhr is the former Captain of the Bayview District where a video was made featuring derogatory stereotypes of people of color and gays. He also faced disciplinary issues as an officer and was suspended by his former boss and now District Attorney George Gascón. Chief Suhr was also indicted during Fajitagate. A pending lawsuit alleges that Suhr retaliated against a female attorney drafting paper work for his termination when Heather Fong was Chief of SFPD.

Chief Suhr worked at the Mission Station where some of those texting SFPD officers are employed. What type of training and leadership did he inspire while working in these communities of color?

How was Chief Suhr chosen to lead the SFPD? Chief Suhr has over three decades with the SFPD. How did we arrive at the current situation with the FBI doing the work that the leadership of the SFPD should be doing? Why have SFPD officers who foster the deep seeded prejudice for people of color and gay people not been weeded out? Why was the diversity academy ever closed?

Due to a lack of transparency and integrity it is a conflict of interest for San Francisco District Attorney George Gascón, a former LAPD law officer, and SFPD Chief Suhr to investigate any possible wrong doing among SFPD. It is not only naive but ridiculous for either man to investigate officers who were are under their command.

Why has Mayor Lee, a former civil rights attorney, not asked an outside agency to investigate this matter? Now is the time to demand zero tolerance for police brutality and bigotry.

San Franciscans will not tolerate the status quo!

## April Meeting: Housing Crisis

Our April meeting "Confronting the Housing Crisis in San Francisco" featured Tim Redmond, former editor of the SF Bay Guardian, Hillary Ronen, Legislative Aide for Sup. David Campos, and Gray Panther Kay Walker, SEIU 1021 activist. They blasted Mayor Lee's pro-developer drivel that housing prices decrease as luxury housing supply increases.

Tim: Building in SF is for profit, not need. In the 80s and 90s they built lots of office buildings but no houses, because office buildings had a higher return-on-investment. Now, luxury condos have a higher return-on-investment, so no affordable housing is built. Many condos are virtually empty, owned by absentee zillionaires. Ed Lee's "jobs" policy offered nothing to long-time residents but brought in 20,000 highly-paid tech workers, driving up housing prices for his developer friends. Affordable housing needs legal protection, not free-market building anarchy.

Hillary: Campos' office gets tearful calls from threatened tenants every day. Campos' past measures, protection against landlord harassment, landlord payment of 2 years of rent increases that evicted tenants suffer, and regulation of landlord buyouts, either didn't pass or are being challenged in court. Future measures contemplated are: a moratorium on market-rate housing in the Mission (possibly as a ballot measure), giving the City first option to buy land along transit routes to build affordable housing, and setting up special tax districts to build up infrastructure there. Heavy resistance is expected from the Mayor, his developer/tech friends, and moderate Supervisors.

Kay: The Mayor promised to provide \$100 million to help modest-to-middle-income San Franciscans buy houses, if he could get that money from the SF Employees Pension Fund. Kay reported on the details of the deal, which the Mayor's office of Housing said would give the Pension Fund more than 3% yield. The City would receive that \$100 million for the Mayor's Housing Office's DALP program, which provides loans to assist in down payments for both market-rate and below market-rate properties. City workers and retirees need to make sure its \$100 million only go to modest-to-middle-income people buying below-market-rate houses.

## Remembering Marshall

Marshall Bentzman died on Dec. 12 after a long illness in hospice at the VA Hospital. He and Ila, who were married for the past 18 years, both joined the Gray Panthers several years ago. Marshall worked many years for the Charles Gary's law firm and assisted on the case of the People's Temple.

Marshall served on our Executive Board as Treasurer, offering his progressive outlook, experience and skills to our ongoing endeavors, until his failing health interfered. He and Ila also opened their home regularly for "movie nights," complete with popcorn and good talk. His many interests, warm-hearted presence and generous spirit were much appreciated. He will be missed. Marshall Bentzman ¡Presente!

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### *Remembering Genaro, Lucio and Forty-three Student Teachers*

After the memorial service for our dead housing crusader...a gray mid-November afternoon... in the San Francisco school lunchroom.

There, up on the wall, was Genaro's picture ... a Mexican resistance leader.

Genaro Vasquez Rojas, school teacher from Guerrero, Mexico fought for liberty against the deep injustices suffered by his people.

He was hunted in the jungles, along the coast, and killed there by the Mexican government in 1972.

Lucio Cabanas, another school teacher from Guerrero, Mexico...fought for liberty against the deep injustices suffered by his people.

He too was hunted in the jungles, along the coast, and killed by the Mexican government in 1974.

Both Genaro and Lucio studied and taught at Ayotzinapa, the same teacher's school in Guerrero, Mexico where forty three student teachers disappeared in late 2014.

*Enough dead heroes! Not these forty-three!  
No more killings by the Mexican government!  
We demand responsibility and justice!*

Barbara Blong

## 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*

If you want to join Gray Panthers,  
call the office  
415-552-8800

**Printed In House May 2015**

## Actions and Events

**Fri, May 1: International Workers and Immigrant Rights Day. ILWU shuts down the Port for Black Lives Matter.** Also Civic Center Plaza, 1:30 PM. See <http://tinyurl.com/poxryej>

**Wed, May 6: SF Budget Justice: Let Us Age with Dignity!** : City Hall Steps, 12:30 PM. See demands at <http://tinyurl.com/ocx44oa>

**Wed, May 6: Save City College:** 150 Phelan Ave, 5:30 PM. Discuss the crisis: class elimination.

**Fri, May 8: The Mission Takes City Hall: Affordable Housing for All.** City Hall Steps, Noon. See <http://tinyurl.com/mtbdu5x>

**Wed, May 13: SF Budget Justice Actions: Housing, Not Handcuffs:** City Hall Steps, Noon. See <http://tinyurl.com/mcv528u>

**Thurs, May 14: SDA and CARA Meetings:** 1187 Franklin, 10AM, SDA; 1 PM, CARA.

**Thurs, May 21: Jobs with Justice Forum: Black Lives Matter at Work.** 209 Golden Gate, 6 PM.

**Sat, May 30: OWL-SF Forum: *How Can We Grow Old and Stay in SF?*** 870 Market St, Rm 1185. <http://tinyurl.com/pynf365>

**Sun, May 31: A Celebration/Memorial for Leslie Feinberg's Life.** Humanist Hall, 390 27th St. Oakland., 2 PM, Leslie, an international transgender activist, <http://tinyurl.com/pne2rzy>

**Thurs, July 30: Giant Medicare Event: Medicare Turns 50: Protect it! Improve it! Expand it to Cover Everyone (single-payer.)** Frank Ogawa Plaza, Oakland (12th St. BART), 11 AM.

**Happy 100 Years Women's International  
League for Peace and Freedom**