

GRAY PANTHERS OF SAN FRANCISCO



Quilts line the Jacksonville Courthouse lawn for Free Marissa Alexander

Black Women's Lives Matter Marissa Alexander Caravan Report Back Tuesday, June 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, June 3,
1PM, Main Library, Stong Room**

**Newsletter Committee Thursday, June 4,
Noon, in the office**

**Book Club Monday, June 29, 11:30 AM,
Celtic Café, 142 McAllister.
(between Hyde/Leavenworth)
Please call (415) 931-1126 to confirm date.**



Boycott Driscoll Berries! Familas Unidas por la Justicia(FUJ) workers called for a boycott to ensure a fair contract for farmworkers at Sakuma Berry Farms, largest grower/supplier of Driscoll berries. The union won legal victories, but Sakuma refuses to negotiate. Workers need a contract. Safeway selling Driscoll strawberries at 1/2 price. Don't Buy Driscoll Berries!

May Meeting Report

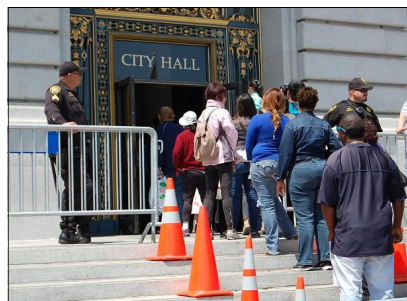
Marilyn Leigh, active with Clean Water Marin/Sonoma Anti-Fluoridation group, spoke on water fluoridation and fluorides in prescription drugs and how they affect our bodies. Our SF water contains hydrofluorosilicic acid, a waste product from fertilizer production to treat water supplies. Disposing of the waste was deemed too costly by the fertilizer industry. Instead the EPA welcomed the solution to sell it, and fertilizer companies actually made a profit selling contaminated waste. Scientists in the NTEU 280 union within the EPA strongly objected to this decision, also opposing fluoridation. Ms. Leigh presented multiple case studies of the cumulative, adverse effects of fluoridation on our bodies. We discussed ways we might act to demand its removal from our water, as 95% of Europe and many cities have done. She gave us references, books, films, www.slweb.org, and www.flouridealerts.org, then suggested we work with the Unitarian Center for a presentation.



Women's International League for Peace & Freedom women honored at the Board of Supervisors

In 1915, 1,200 women from a diversity of cultures came together in The Hague during the First World War to eliminate the causes of war. On WILF's 100 anniversary, thousands of women from around the world gathered again in The Hague to call for peace as wars rage on in Afghanistan, Iraq, Syria, Libya, Yemen and other countries. GP members, Deetje and Betty were honored with a proclamation for WILF given by Sup. Breed.

Mission Takes City Hall



Police barricades lined with police did not stop a stream of protesters occupying City Hall, taking it to Mayor Lee's door, "Ed Lee, can't you see, we don't want more luxury" Mayor Lee did not open the door.

June Meeting Black Women's Lives Matter



Marissa Alexander was given a 60-year prison term for firing a warning shot over the head of her assaulter. Bay Area Women caravanned across the country, all the way to Jack-

sonville Florida, educating and agitating for Justice for Marissa Alexander will bring stories from their journey at our **General Membership meeting, Tuesday, June 16, 1PM.**

Here in SF, black women are arrested 13 times higher than women of other races. While driving, they are stopped for traffic violations 17 times more than white women.

In Past Junes

June 5, 1968 - Robert F. Kennedy was shot and mortally wounded while leaving the Hotel Ambassador in Los Angeles.

June 6, 1872 - Pioneering feminist Susan B. Anthony was fined for voting in a presidential election at Rochester, New York.

June 6, 1944 - D-Day, the largest amphibious landing in history, began in the early-morning hours as Allied forces landed in Normandy on the northern coast of France.

June 6, 1978 - California voters approved Proposition 13, an amendment to the state constitution severely limiting property tax rates.

June 8, 1874 - Apache leader Cochise died on the Chiricahua Reservation. After a peace treaty was broken in 1861, he waged war forcing them to withdraw from the U.S. Army out of Arizona

June 12, 1963 - Civil rights leader Medgar Evers was assassinated in Jackson, Mississippi.

June 13, 1971 - The New York Times began publishing the Pentagon Papers, a collection of top secret documents exposing U.S. strategy in the Vietnam War.

June 19, 1865 - General Granger arrived in Texas, to issue General Order No. 3, officially freeing America's final slaves. This date, known as **Juneteenth**, is celebrated as Black Independence Day by African Americans across the nation. (see Calendar listings for Bar Area Celebrations)

Police Lie about Amilcar Perez-Lopez

As of this report, no results of the official autopsy has not been given to the Perez-Lopez legal team. Seeking justice in the murders by police, many families must resort to paying for private autopsies. In the case of Amilcar, the autopsy shows 4 wounds in his back, 1 near his upper right shoulder, 3 to his mid-back. At-



orney Arnoldo Casillas states that this proves Amilcar was running away from the undercover cops, unlike the statement from police chief Suhr that Amilcar lunged at officers with a knife raised overhead causing them to open fire. There are also at least 3 eyewitnesses and photos that contradict Suhr's report. Suhr in an interview said "You know, it's been really hard for the families of the two officers." No statement for the Perez-Lopez family! (More at www.eltocolote.org)

Support for Mumia

Wadiya Jamal, Mumia's wife, on May 12th was told Mumia had been moved again to the hospital. This caused grave concern as Mumia had a fever, open wounds, and sores on his legs. His attorney Bret Grote visited him on Friday. Mumia was engaged, alert, yet in pain in his knees and leg. His hospital conditions are abhorrent; he will be chained to the bed. He could be arbitrarily and systematically denied visitors. The last time in the ICU they did not let his family or lawyers see him or give them any information for 24 hours. Prison authorities continue to refuse to allow Mumia's own doctor to examine him, or allow phone calls with his regular doctor, or a diabetes specialists.



Please Keep Calling:
Prison Supt. John Kerestes 570-773-2158
x8102 fax 570-783-2008

Gov. Tom Wolf 717-787-2500 or governor@PA.gov

Dept. of Corrections Press Secretary, Susan McNaughton 717-728-4025 or mчнаught@pa.gov. (More at www.sfbayview.com)

Mission Moratorium Leads the Way

We live in the most expensive rental market in the nation, rents up 14.8 % from 2013 to 2014, setting the average rent in San Francisco now \$3,129. SF is a city with 2/3 of us as renters, and 3 out of 4 pay over 50% of our income for rent. Building low-income affordable housing takes a back set to expensive condos.

Sup. Campos' moratorium sensibly states that market-rate building be placed on hold as people devise a plan to solve to the crisis of housing construction, evictions, and the loss of Mission cultural. That plan could be taken to other SF areas in housing crises. Residents in the Bayview want to extend the proposed Mission market-rate housing moratorium to their district. Sup. Weiner opposes the moratorium, "a moratorium would spur other neighborhoods to demand a construction moratorium." Sup. Ferrell also opposes the moratorium. San Francisco's Board of Supervisors decide **Tuesday, June 2** whether to adopt a moratorium. Sups. Cohn, Breed, Tang, Christensen need to be persuaded. (Their contacts list below)

As 8,000 Latinos have been forced out of the Mission since 2000, 60,000 people earning over \$100,000 a year moved in. Of 478 units to be built, only 7% will be below-market rate.

A diverse group continues to meet, (next, June 24) to develop a *Mission Action Plan 2020*. And, a ballot measure was submitted to the Dept. of Elections by tenant rights attorney J. Scott Weaver of the Plaza 16 Coalition. In addition to a longer moratorium, the ballot measure would require The City to collaborate with community organizations to develop a "Neighborhood Stabilization Plan" by Jan. 31, 2017. The plan would have to ensure that at least 33% of all new housing in the Mission built is offered at below market rates for low and moderate incomes, and "ensure that housing units will be available to Mission District residents."

**Stand up for the Mission Moratorium
Rally City Hall 1:30**

Board of Supervisors Meeting June 2, 3PM

Contact the following undecided Supervisors:
Malia.Cohen@sfgov.org, London.Breed@sfgov.org,
Kath.Tang@sfgov.org, Julie.Christensen@sfgov.org

What Water as a Commodity Means

Experts propose various solutions to the water crisis. Most miss the mark. Is water a commodity? Or part of our common resources. Robert Glennon, professor of law and public policy at the University of Arizona, believes charging higher prices to those using more water could help create a market for water as commodity on the stock exchange. Water, transported from northern CA via the proposed Gov. Brown's tunnels to southern CA, could generate market value. How much extra water? In an area where to the 1%, money is no obstacle for their presumed needs, there are no limits.

California is home to over 100 bottled water facilities, all of which are exempt from Governor Brown's water restrictions. Nestlé pays just shy of \$1.00 per 748 gallons of water it taps from Sacramento's municipal water supply, then resells it for thousands of times more in environmentally damaging plastic bottles. Activists protest Nestlé's draining up to 80 million gallons of water a year from Sacramento aquifers during a record drought. Sign the Food & Water Watch petition:

<http://tinyurl.com/m5psyys>

The Colorado River Compact, signed by 6 states sharing water from the Colorado River, allots California a basic apportionment of 4.4 million acre-feet per year. 3.1 goes to the Imperial Irrigation District: water used to grow, among other crops, alfalfa—CA's largest crop water user, 1/3 of which goes to China & other countries to feed dairy cows and Kobe beef! Many acres of alfalfa are watered with wasteful flood irrigation. In 2003, San Diego contracted for 200,000 acre-feet of water a year from the Imperial Valley. The city needed to supply a growing biotech industry and increasing population. (acre-foot = 25,000 gals).

Silicon Valley's Intel, Cisco, Google, Facebook, rely on huge volumes of water. These server farms require vast air conditioning units to dissipate the heat generated by thousands of servers. Some server farms (warehouses of servers) use as much energy as a midsized city.

We want major solutions: revising water rights dating back decades, ending the pumping of ground water, and funding local, sustainable, organically grown foods to gradually replace agribusiness massive water users alfalfa, rice, etc.

CleanPowerSF



After 10 years fighting obstructions from SFPUC and more recently Mayor Lee, we are set to get our CleanPowerSF.

Two years ago when Mayor Ed Lee announced his opposition of CleanPowerSF, he used both half-truths and outright false statements to justify his opposition. Ed Lee's deceptive claims included: CleanPowerSF won't create local jobs, CleanPowerSF won't build real local clean energy, CleanPowerSF will be more expensive than PG&E, CleanPowerSF will be run by Shell Oil.

So in late 2013 Our City SF and our coalition allies 350 SF, Sierra Club, SF Green Party, and Haight Ashbury Neighborhood Council succeeded in getting the San Francisco Local Agency Formation Commission (SF LAFCo) to hire the energy consulting firm Enernex to do a groundbreaking study of all of the benefits of CleanPowerSF which would disprove Lee's claims. Enernex completed a final study in January 2015, showing clearly that:

- 1) A robust CleanPowerSF buildout will create over 9200 jobs in its first 10 years, half of those jobs local to the SF Bay Area.
- 2) CleanPowerSF will build hundreds of megawatts of local renewals and efficiency.
- 3) CleanPowerSF will deliver cleaner energy at a lower rate than PG&E.
- 4) CleanPowerSF can be run by the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission, with no need for Shell to be involved at all.

Once these facts were put in front of the public, the Mayor's false arguments were swept off the table, and he essentially had no choice but to support CleanPowerSF.

Enernex later revised its report on jobs estimate to be 9200. (SFChronicle <http://tinyurl.com/kvmkbas>). This essentially made it impossible for Lee to continue to oppose CleanPowerSF.

(The information in this article sent to GP from Eric Brooks, organizer for the nonprofit, Our City.org).

CA Budget: Restore Services!

California's current budget surplus is now as high as \$8 Billion! Gov. Brown wants the 2015-16 budget to put a huge amount into a Rainy Day Fund to prepare for the *next* recession, but our social services haven't recovered from the devastating cuts from the *last* recession. He also wants a huge amount to repay the loan the State had to borrow from the banks because the banks and corporations weren't paying their share of taxes. Today's huge budget surplus is largely due to the Prop 30 tax on millionaires, but Brown did everything he could to stop a wildly popular, and much stronger, tax-the-rich measure of a teachers union. California has the highest poverty in the nation, 24%, using the reality-based Supplementary measure. Brown needs to fund:

SSI/SSP Grant Increases: 1.3 million Californians with minimal or no Social Security are existing on \$889/mo, which is only 90% of the already-low Federal Poverty Level. In 2008-2012, \$4.6 Billion was taken from the State portion of SSI/SSP. The Legislature is negotiating with Brown to raise payments to \$1,099/mo (112% FPL) and restore cost-of-living increases. It's about time!

Medi-Cal Increases: Full Medi-Cal for undocumented immigrants. Restore full adult dentistry and other "optional" benefits like foot care, eye exams, and hearing tests. Restore the 10% cut in payment to doctors and pharmacies, so they don't stop seeing patients. (As plaintiffs, we fought this cut up to US Supreme Court). The Legislature is negotiating with Brown on these.

In-Home-Support-Services, so frail seniors and people with disabilities can live at home: Unconditional restoration of 7% cut in IHSS recipients' hours of help. Overtime pay for IHSS workers.

Children's Needs: Expand the access and eligibility for subsidies for childcare, which is prohibitively expensive. End the outrageous Maximum Family Grant Rule limiting the number of children per family supported by the CalWORKs welfare subsidy.

Read more about the Health & Human Services Network's program for dignity, safety, and security for all at <http://tinyurl.com/n27yuey> .

Late Night Calls

Remember when your parents usually your mom would say "Hang up the telephone and get started on your homework?" Talking with your friends about your school day despite the fact you saw each other 5 days a week and had lunch together everyday was the norm for many teenage girls. Modern technology has given late night callers texting which is supposedly discreet and private. It really is not private; just ask SFPD about that!

Parents can access their children cell phone activities if they pay the bills. Residents exercising their rights under the Sunshine Ordinance, the Brown Act and California Public Records Act can find out about these late night calls among public officials. It would be awesome for someone to change our voting system so that we can vote the bums out of office without paying for a recall.

Airbnb Hurts SF Renters

Airbnb and other short-term rental outfits are converting thousands of housing units into illegal hotel units, and Mayor Lee's appointees on the Planning Commission have resisted effective regulation. On May 17, 2015, the SF Examiner revealed that a SF Planning Commissioner changed her pro-regulation vote after texting with a liaison from Mayor Lee's office. The Commissioner texted agreement to change her vote. *Voila!* The SF Planning Commission did a U-turn with her vote, making Airbnb and the Mayor's office happy. (Excerpts of texts at <http://tinyurl.com/nbrwfzx>)

The Planning Department finds no accurate way to enforce laws against short-term rentals without forcing Airbnb to give the City data on how many nights the units are used for tourist housing. A Board of Supervisors' Budget Analyst study showed that Sup. David Chiu's and Ed Lee's regulatory legislation from last year is a complete failure. Many available apartments in neighborhoods have been taken off the market and used for short-terms rentals through platforms like Airbnb. *Share Better SF*, a group planning a fall ballot measure to tighten regulation on short-term rentals, estimates that there are 4,700 units used exclusively for Airbnb-type rentals: the Haight, 32%, or as high as 43 % of the vacant rental units were listed on Airbnb, with the Mission, 29%—Or as high as 40%. See <http://tinyurl.com/oec6h4h> .

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.

Printed In House June 2015

Actions and Events



Tuesday, June 2, Board of Supervisors vote on Moratorium on Luxury Housing in the Mission. Rally 1:30 Supervisors meeting 3PM, City Hall.

Fri, June 5, Forum on 48th Anniversary of Six Day War: "Palestine: The Struggle Continues." 7 PM, 2969 Mission, Answer Coalition. Discussion follows panel presentation. \$5-10 donation (no one turned away) Wheelchairs OK

Sat, June 6, Congress of the People. 9AM-6PM, Redstone, 2940 16th, Free, Childcare (call), Lunch provided. Social & Economic Justice for All. 415-863-1225, www.livingwage-sf.org

Sat, June 6, 4th Annual Howard Grayson LGBT Elder Life Conference. 11AM-5PM, 1800 Market. See <http://tinyurl.com/my3b2lz>

Tuesdays, June 9, 16, 23, 30, July 7, SDA Senior University: The Fight for Affordable Housing! 10AM-12Noon, 1111 Buchanan. St. <http://tinyurl.com/kkvsfyf>

Thurs, June 11, HOMEY 15-year Anniversary Reception and Open House. 6 PM, 1337 Mission. More at <http://tinyurl.com/q89ymjp>

Thurs, June 11, SDA Meeting (10AM) and CARA Meeting (1PM). Unitarian Center, 1187 Franklin

Sat, June 13, Juneteenth: The Journey Continues. 10-6PM, 65th Annual celebration on Fillmore Street betw Sutter & Turk. sfjuneteenth.com/ or in Berkeley: www.berkeleyjuneteenth.org

Tues, June 16: Gray Panther Meeting, See p 1.

Sat, June 27, OWL-SF, What's the Latest on Medicare & Social Security? 10AM-12Noon. 555 Ellis (betw Leavenworth & Hyde)

SAVE THE DATE! Thurs, July 30, 11 AM, Ogawa Plaza, Oakland, (12th St. BART) Medicare Turns 50! Celebrating Medicare's 50th Year. Protect Medicare! - Improve it! - Expand it to Cover Everyone (Single-Payer)!