

GRAY PANTHERS OF SAN FRANCISCO



**July General Meeting
Airbnb Must Be Regulated
Tuesday, July 21, 12:30–3PM
Fireside Room, Unitarian Center
1187 Franklin @ Geary**

GRAY PANTHERS COMMITTEE MEETINGS & EVENTS

All meetings and events take place at 2940 16th St, Rm 200-4, *unless otherwise noted*

**Board Meeting Wednesday, July 1, 1PM,
Main Library, Stong Room 1st floor**

**Newsletter Committee Thursday, July
2, Noon, in the office,**

**Book Club Monday, July 27, 11:30 AM,
Celtic Café, 142 McAllister.
(between Hyde/Leavenworth)
Please call (415) 931-1126 to confirm date.**



**Celebrate Medicare's 50th Birthday
Thursday, July 30, 11 AM, Frank Ogawa Plaza, Oakland**

MEDICARE

**PROTECT
IMPROVE
EXPAND**

Report-Back on Caravan for Marissa

Women from the Free Marissa Alexander Caravan opened the June Gray Panther meeting with the songs they sang on their journey across the country from Oakland to Jacksonville Fl. to support Marissa at her Jan. 27 hearing. They shared stories of each stop of their 4000-mile, 9-state trip, and their participation in over 15 teach-ins, press conferences, radio shows, and marches.

Marissa Alexander was incarcerated in 2011 after firing a warning shot into a wall to scare off her abusive husband who was threatening to beat her to death. Marissa was not allowed to plead the Stand Your Ground law, even though the Prosecutor, Angela Corey, had successfully used it to defend George Zimmerman, the killer of Trayvon Martin. Marissa's charge was assault with a deadly weapon, and she originally received three mandatory 20-year concurrent sentences. In 2013, the guilty verdict was overturned, but Prosecutor Corey continued to seek the 60-year sentence at Marissa's Jan. 27 hearing. The decision was to place her under house arrest for two more years, plus charging her \$500 monthly for the ankle bracelet and requiring her to request permission from the judge to leave the house for any reason.

Free Marissa supporters are calling for a pardon! Support the campaign to raise money for a full-length video documentary:

- Donate at <http://tinyurl.com/omcfr7j>,
- Or buy a T-shirt: call 510-540-7007 or email FreeMarissaEastBay@gmail.com

Charleston - ¡Presente!

Say Their Names - Honor Their Lives

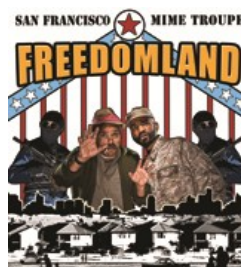
"...that we might be able to precipitate a meaningful, transformative political and cultural shift in this country."

Maurice Mitchell, Movement for Black Lives

Depayne Middletown Doctor, 49
Cynthia Hurd, 54
Susie Jackson, 87
Ethel Lance, 70
Rev. Clementa Pinckney, 41
Tywanza Sanders, 26
Rev. Dr. Daniel Simmons Sr., 74
Sharonda Coleman-Singleton, 45
Myra Thompson, 59

Our July Meeting

We will discuss Airbnb and its impact on our city, and hear the latest news on the qualifying status of the November ballot measure by ShareBetterSF, a coalition of tenants, some landlords, neighborhood groups, advocates for seniors and people with disabilities, and labor unions. At this time over 10,000 signatures have been collected. So, we look forward to mounting a campaign to rein in Airbnb! *See page 4 for more information.*



Reminder: **Our August meeting** will be attending together the SF Mime Troupe play, *Freedomland*, Sunday, August 2, 2PM, Yerba Buena Gardens, 3rd & Mission. Music starts at 1:30PM. Look for Gray Panthers saving our chairs!

In Julys Past

July 14, 1789 The fall of the Bastille, beginning the French Revolution.

July 19, 1848 Women's Rights Convention, Seneca Falls, NY.

July 1, 1862 Bureau of Internal Revenue was established by an Act of Congress.

July 9, 1868 14th Amendment to constitution, a Reconstruction Amendment, addressing citizenship rights and equal protection of the law.

July 10, 1875 Mary McLeod Bethune born.

July 7, 1906 Baseball pitcher Leroy R. (Satchel) Paige born, first African American pitcher in the American League and inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame in 1971.

July 14, 1912 Woody Guthrie born.

July 24, 1925 John Scopes convicted for teaching evolution in Tennessee.

July 28, 1932 The Bonus March, 15,000 WW1 veterans in Washington D.C. demand payment of a promised War Bonus. Generals MacArthur, Eisenhower and Patton attacked and burned the encampment.

July 5, 1935 National Labor Relations Act.

July 16, 1945 First atomic bomb tested in New Mexico creating a mushroom cloud rising 41,000 ft., emitting heat three times the temperature of the sun's interior and wiping out all plant and animal life within a mile.

#Say Her Name

Along with keeping Marissa Alexander out of jail in Florida, women have been organizing and demonstrating under #Say Her Name in over 20 cities, especially here in San Francisco. The African American Policy Forum released “*Say Her Name: Resisting Police Brutality Against Black Women*,” to draw attention to the victimization of African-American women, particularly by law enforcement officers. Co-author, UCLA Professor Kimberlé Crenshaw, said “Although Black women are routinely killed, raped and beaten by the police, their experiences are rarely foregrounded in popular understandings of police brutality.”

Are we familiar with some of the names of black women who have been murdered this year alone: Alexia Christian, Meagan Hockaday, Mya Hall, Janisha Fonville, Natasha McKenna? Transwomen (transgender women) of color were the victims of 67% of all hate-motivated homicides against LGBT people in 2013. In 2014, 12 out of the 14 trans women of color murdered in the United States were black. In San Francisco, Latina trans woman Taja Gabrielle DeJesus was stabbed to death this February.

Black women in San Francisco are harassed more than women of other races, with an arrest rate 13 times higher. They are pulled over in traffic 17 times more often, and arrested more in incidents involving drugs. Black teenage girls’ US arrest rate is 50 times higher than in other countries. Teenage black girls often face higher rates of punishment in school than their male classmates. And recall the case of Dajerria Becton, a 15-year old African American girl thrown to the ground and sat on by Texas cop Casebolt at a pool party.

A new report from the City’s Reentry Council found disparities “undermine any notion of justice in our justice system.” Public Defender Jeff Adachi said, “In fact, it is black San Franciscans who are being over-policed and over-incarcerated.” For every white adult arrested last year, seven black adults were arrested. The conviction rate of black adults is 10 times higher than that of whites. Yet Police Chief Suhr says he profiles Blacks because they commit more crimes.

Opposition to New SF Jail Is Growing

One year ago, in the midst of awareness of racist mass incarceration and Michelle Alexander’s book *The New Jim Crow*, SF Gray Panthers took a position against construction of a new jail to replace the current CJ6 and CJ7, which must be torn down for seismic safety reasons.

Our reasons were: (1) the overwhelmingly disproportionate percentage of people of color in SF jails, (2) the large proportion of SF inmates awaiting trial but too poor to make bail, (3) the low crime rate and low occupancy of SF jails, meaning current inmates could be housed in present facilities, (4) the huge cost of the project, servicing a debt of \$600 million over a thirty year period, instead of supplying vital health and human services, and (5) loss of an opportunity to embrace more effective and humane alternatives to incarceration, ranging from immediate changes like bail reform, to long-range solutions like affordable supportive housing and mental health services.

Now, a year later, with two police murders of Latin residents, a major scandal of threatening racist and homophobic text messages by SF police, the stepped-up police profiling of black, Latin, and poor residents of areas like the Mission that are selected for gentrification and displacement, and the plan to hire hundreds more police, our reasons for opposing a new jail and hiring new police are stronger than ever. Police Chief Greg Suhr has already signaled that a new SF jail and hundreds of more police would lead to increased criminalization of homelessness and profiling of black, brown, and poor residents in areas targeted for development and gentrification.

Supervisors Kim, Avalos, Campos, and now Mar oppose a new SF Jail, and there will be another hearing soon. Stay tuned.

Critical Resistance has issued an important new *People’s Report*, showing how much this jail/police program would cost, how many services would have to be sacrificed to pay for it, why this jail/police program is unnecessary, what the alternatives are, and how to get involved and join the fight against it. It’s available at <http://tinyurl.com/nh3przd>

Mission Moratorium Lost by 2 Votes

After the vote Supervisor Campos gave this statement:

“The fact that my colleagues have voted against a temporary moratorium on luxury housing in the Mission today is not the end of our fight. It's the beginning. The people of San Francisco have made it clear that the housing crisis must be addressed and that they won't stop fighting for their homes and community. I promise that I will not leave them to fight alone.”

“I want to thank the Mission community for your passion and commitment to your neighborhood and your city. And I want to thank my co-sponsors Kim, Avalos, Yee and Avalos for speaking so eloquently about how important this vote was for the future not only of the Mission but for all of San Francisco. I also thank Supervisors Breed and Cohen for their vote in favor. To the four Supervisors who voted against the people of the Mission's modest proposal to slow the rapid erosion of their home and community—you are on the wrong side of history. We may have lost this vote, but we will not lose the Mission!”

In answer to the supervisors “on the wrong side of history,” volunteers are gathering signatures for a November moratorium ballot measure on luxury housing in the Mission. People continue to protest against market-rate housing, evictions, Airbnb, and continue to call for low-income housing and housing for homeless families.

On June 24, SEIU Mission activists and the Plaza 16th Coalition linked Maximus, the Monster in the Mission, to Maximus, who replaced union workers at Parkmerced with a nonunion contractor for janitorial and maintenance services. They marched to the offices of Maximus owner Robert Rosania. It was guarded by SF Tac Squad, but someone inside opened the door and protestors entered to hold a tumultuous open mic for speakers. To the idea that the action was “disrupting our work flow,” activist Andy Blue, replied, “This is the sharing economy. We are sharing your space”.

Labor leaders seem to be waking up and joining the fight to save our city. Recently the building trades unions objected to a luxury Bryant Street development, now renamed the “Beast on Bryant.”

Limits to Airbnb Goes to November Ballot

ShareBetterSF, a coalition of tenants and landlords, neighborhood groups, advocates for seniors and people with disabilities, labor unions, affordable housing developers, and civic leaders, is gathering public support for a November ballot measure regulating Airbnb.

Independent analysts unanimously concluded that the City's existing limitations on residential rentals to tourists are unworkable and unenforceable. This includes tourist rentals offered by Airbnb and more than 60 other websites in San Francisco. While Mayor Ed Lee and most Supervisors agree that fundamental changes are needed, they've yet to advance any meaningful reforms that would curb illegal conversions of apartments and homes to hotel rooms. Analysts estimate that as many as 10,000 units have been lost to tourist accommodations. Also, from 925 to 1,960 units have been taken off the housing market in the Mission. The Pride Board allowed Airbnb to sponsor this year's Pride March and to set up a Welcome Wagon in the Mission under the Pride flag. Airbnb offered a \$500 bonus for listers sharing housing in the month of June.

The ShareBetterSF ballot measure:

- Caps residential rentals to tourists at 75 nights per year.
- Allows Airbnb and other companies to only list units legally registered with the City.
- Notifies neighbors and other building tenants when a unit is registered as a tourist rental.
- Requires regular reports on the number of nights a unit is rented.
- Provides neighbors and other interested parties the ability to enforce the law when the City fails to act on legitimate complaints.

Airbnb rentals take sorely needed housing units off the market, driving up rents and prices for everyone. Tourists will pay four times as much for an apartment as a permanent tenant, a powerful incentive for evictions of seniors and working families. Neighborhood merchants suffer when residents are replaced by short-term visitors. It's time to rein in Airbnb, a \$24-billion global corporation that flaunts the law and curries political influence. Visit www.sharebettersf.com to volunteer.

Mourning And Organizing

“Our hearts and minds are with the families and loved ones of those killed, survivors and the AME community at large as they begin the long and difficult journey towards healing. ... there is no safe haven from the violence and brutality of racism, not even a house of worship.” **Color of Change**

As most of us deal with the pain of what has happened, yet again, we move from mourning and continue our work. It is imperative not to allow media, any group or individuals to write this off as just one crazy white person.

Why does the Dept. of Justice refuse to call this an act of terrorism, even as it fits their own definition? Admitting so challenges the entire foundation of the intelligence-gathering system’s focus—that terrorists are *not* the white racists here, anti-abortionists who bomb clinics and doctors, nor torturers in our prison system. It would mean admitting that our entire history and institutions were established on the terrorist genocide of the Native American Indians and the enslavement of black people. Why did they miss Dylann Roof’s manifesto of hate and his plans of murder? Studies reveal that domestic acts of violence (terrorism) far outnumber those by Muslims, whom authorities profile.

In the aftermath of this outrageous act of terrorism, many southern states have called for taking the confederate flag out of their capitol buildings or grounds. A few corporate American entities have banned sales of flag paraphernalia. The confederate flag is a symbol and represents glory to some and racism to most. It can only be symbolic and an honor to nine lives lost if we finally and completely commit to engaging, facing, and ending racism. We need no more reminders.

As committed anti-racists, Gray Panthers believe in these fundamental rights: meaningful employment, a country free of racism, economic security, decent and affordable housing, a world of peace, a life of dignity from birth to death, and freedom from fear and abuse.

“We know that to transform this country we must be part of building a powerful multiracial majority to challenge racism in all its forms.” **showingup-forracialjustice.org** a youth group in the South.

Ronnie Gilbert ¡Presente!



Ronnie Gilbert, 88, died of natural causes June 6th in California with her longtime partner, Donna Korones, at her side. In 1951, Ronnie and the Weavers were investigated by the Senate Internal

Security Subcommittee, and soon they were black-listed from performing and recording. Pete Seeger left the Weavers several years later, but Gilbert, Lee Hays, Fred Hellerman and a series of replacement singers continued to perform and record until 1964. They ushered in the folk movement of the ‘60s.

Her memoir, *Ronnie Gilbert: A Radical Life in Song*, will be published posthumously this fall.

Doris Ackerman’s *The Human Age* Reviewed

(Book Review)

Doris Ackerman’s most recent book, *The Human Age*, records how we, in the current geological era, the Anthropocene, dramatically changed the world when the Industrial Revolution, powered by a massive use of fossil fuels, led to rising carbon dioxide levels. We have destroyed 85% of the world’s oyster reefs (the last time such reef death happened was 65 million years ago when an asteroid wiped out the dinosaurs and many other life forms). Ackerman stresses we must begin at once to slow these destructive processes.

Ackerman recounts the history of Sweden: in 1970, they suffered from pollution, dying forests, lack of clean water, and they used more oil than any other country. In the last decade through use of wind and solar power, recycling waste water through eco-suburbs, and imposing stringent green building codes, Sweden has cut oil dependency 90% and trimmed CO₂ by 9%. Among other technological advances, Ackerman cites the \$400 billion project Desertec, “whose ultimate goal is to collect sunshine in deserts to power the entire planet.”

Utilities in California want to put a \$10 monthly charge on your electric bill if you have rooftop solar or plan to do so. With this plan, PG&E continues to obstruct CleanPowerSF with the help of Mayor Lee’s PUC.

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: Complete Listing at <http://tinyurl.com/2gy6enb>

Sunday, July 5—31, Laborfest, presentations all month schedule, www.laborfest.net, 415-642-8066

Fri-Sun, July 3-5, Freedomland, SF Mime Troupe in Dolores Park: 1:30 PM, 19th/Dolores

Wed, July 8, Laborfest, 2015 Port Shutdown for Black Lives Matter: 7 PM, 400 Northpoint at Mason, Henry Schmidt Rm, 2nd Fl.

Thurs, July 9, Senior & Disability Action Meeting: 10AM-Noon, 1187 Franklin, Starr King Rm

Thurs, July 9, CARA SF CAT Meeting: 1-3 PM, ILWU Bldg, 1188 Franklin, 4th Fl

Thurs, July 9, Race, Class, Immigration in Struggle for Healthcare Justice: 6 PM, 1010 Mission

Fri, July 17, Living Wage Coalition Annual Awards Dinner: 6:30, SEIU 1021, Kansas St. between 16th & 17th Sts, 415-863-1225, www.livingwage-sf.org

Sat, July 18, "Talking Back:Voices of Color," Reading by Nellie Wong: 1PM, Modern Times 2919 24th St. SF.

Sun, July 19, Greenwashing Israeli Colonialism: Film and Panel, 12:30 PM, New Parkway Theater, 474 24th St Oakland. Donations \$8

Sat, July 25, Laborfest, Charter Schools, Unions & Public Workers: 2 PM, 518 Valencia

Wed, July 29, Laborfest: Housing, Tenants, Non-Profits, Privatization & Labor: 7 PM, 801 2nd St. near AT&T Ball Park

"If you go to anything this year for Medicare, this is the one to go to." Jodi Reid, CARA. Thursday, 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)!