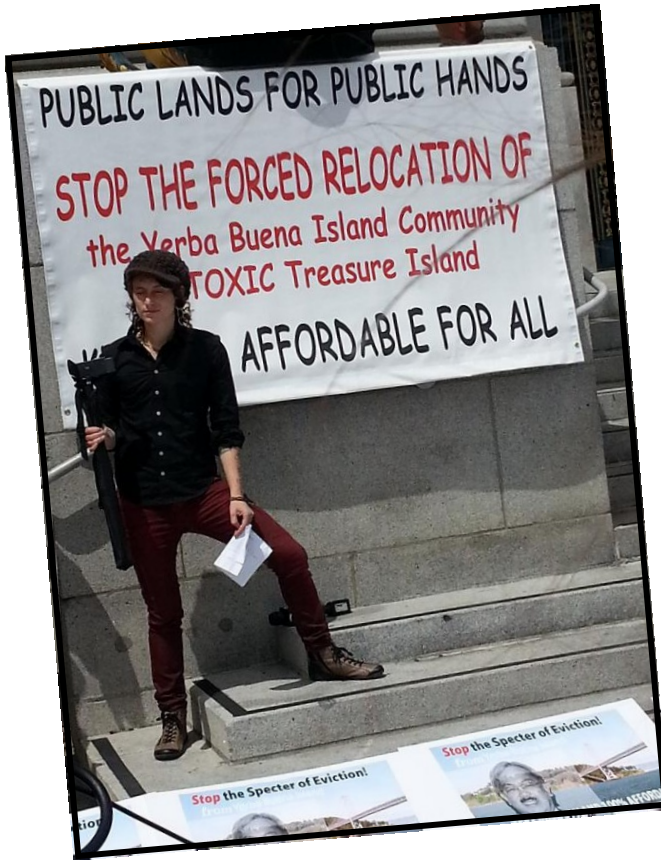


GRAY PANTHERS OF SAN FRANCISCO



Toxic Development at Yerba Buena Island

Speaker: Betty Mackey of *Save YBI*

Tuesday, September 15, 12:30–3PM

Unitarian Universalist Center, 1187 Franklin (at Geary)

GRAY PANTHERS COMMITTEE MEETINGS & EVENTS

Board Meeting: Wed, Sept 2, 1 PM
Main Library, Stong Rm, 1st Floor.
Members welcome.

Newsletter Committee: Thurs, Sept 3,
Noon, GP office, 2940 16th St, Rm 200-3

Book Club: Mon, Sept 28, 11:30 AM
Celtic Café, 142 McAllister
(betw Hyde & Leavenworth)
(Please call 415-931-1126 to confirm.)



Don't miss the last chance for SF Mime Troupe play, *Freedomland!*
Sun & Mon, Sept 6 & 7, 1:30 PM, Dolores Park, 19th & Dolores Streets

SF Mime Troupe vs Militarized Cops

As this San Francisco icon has done for 50 years, the Troupe stepped up with *Freedomland*, a play confronting the militarization of police and the targeting of people of color. This is a difficult task, but the Troupe blends its political satire with the devastating reality of today. Some believe it to be one of its best. It follows in the tradition of past plays like the 1970's *Seize the Time*, taken principally from Chairman Bobby Seale's book of the same title, a history of the Black Panther Party.

Through their skilled acting, these performers take us from a devastating event to validation of our ability to unite. All with humor intertwined. Don't miss it! Performances are free; donations needed.



Bay View Opera House, Outdoor Plaza
Wed, Sept 2nd @ 6:30 PM (Music 6:00)
Bay View Opera House, SF

Peacock Meadow in Golden Gate Park
Sat, Sept 5th @ 2:00 PM (Music 1:30)
JFK Drive & Peacock Meadow, SF

Closing Shows, Dolores Park in the Mission
Sun, Mon, Sept 6th, 7th, 2:00 PM (Music 1:30)
19th & Dolores Sts. Also post-show discussion

We can also support their effort to take this play to other cities. Donations: SFMT, 855 Treat Ave, SF CA 94110

Julian Bond 1940-2015 ! PRESENTE !

From his youth as a fighter for civil rights and justice and against the war, to protesting the Keystone XL pipeline, Julian Bond led a life opposing all oppressions.

September Meeting *Toxic Development* At Yerba Buena Island

Betty Mackey, a member of *Save YBI*, will speak about the evictions and the fight-back by the tenants of Yerba Buena Island at our next meeting on Tuesday, September 15. (See more on page 3.) The City's on-going gentrification and displacement has spread to Yerba Buena and Treasure Islands.

In Septembers Past

September 3, 1838 Frederick Douglass escaped slavery, boarding a train in Baltimore, a steamboat to freedom in Philadelphia, and train to New York.

September 22, 1862 President Abraham Lincoln issued a preliminary Emancipation Proclamation freeing the slaves in territories held by Confederates starting January 1, 1863.

September 15, 1935 Nazis enacted the Nuremberg Laws depriving German Jews of citizenship.

September 2, 1945 Ho Chi Minh proclaimed the independence of Vietnam.

September 2, 1963 Alabama Governor George Wallace forcibly halted public school integration at Tuskegee High School with state troopers.

September 11, 1970 A CIA-backed coup overthrew and killed Chile's elected president, Salvador Allende.

September 13, 1971 State police and National Guardsmen stormed Attica prison in New York State ending a prisoners' revolt. 31 prisoners and 11 guards were killed.

September 8, 1974 President Ford granted Richard Nixon a full pardon for all his offenses committed while in office.

September 12, 1977 Police murdered Steve Biko, the South African black civil rights leader.

September 16, 1982 A two day massacre in Palestinian refugee camps, Sabra and Shatila, shooting hundreds of Palestinians.

September 7, 1986 Bishop Desmond Tutu became the first black Archbishop of Cape Town, South Africa.

September 11, 2001 Four large passenger jets were hijacked, then crashed into the twin towers of the World Trade Center in NYC and the Pentagon.

Yerba Buena Folks Forced To Move

According to the residents of Yerba Buena Island, the City of SF has been violating the rights of both Yerba Buena and Treasure Island residents for over 12 years, and did not include them in redevelopment plans. They say they have spoken at public meetings, written to the TIDA (the Treasure Island District Authority), and requested meetings, with no results. TIDA proceeded with its plans to redevelop with no regard for the people or their health. At this point, the residents of YBI have until September 14th to either move to heavily-contaminated Treasure Island or be bought out at minimal amounts.

The City's plans to proceed with the building of luxury, market-rate condos on YBI with only five percent affordable units. The residents do not have the right to return at their current rents, which start at \$1900 per month and are considered below market rate. The 15 affordable units on YBI will probably be assigned through a lottery system, according to Betty Mackey, a tenant who is part of the "Save YBI" movement.

The move to Treasure Island is risky. According to an article by the Center of Investigative Reporting, Treasure Island "has a long-secret legacy of radioactive and chemical waste left behind" by the US Navy, who owned the Island for decades, and by the City. Clean-up began under the Navy, and continued after the Island was transferred to SF as the master lease holder. Many articles, including an article by the Center for Investigative Reporting by Matt Smith and Katharine Mieszkowski, have documented that the radioactivity is far worse than first thought.

At this point the City seems to be siding with the Navy, which states that Treasure Island is now safe. This is in spite of the many complaints of long-term residents who have become ill and believe the toxicity is the cause. Many of the residents of TI are low-income, poor, and people of color, and some were "transferred" to Treasure Island during the clean-up of Hunter's Point. According to tenant spokespeople, some of the current TI tenants are neglected by the property management company (Jon Stewart) and are forced to live in substandard housing.

Mumia in Medical Danger

Mumia Abu-Jamal reported months ago a full-body outbreak of eczema, with blisters and bloody sores. Treatment by prison doctors produced a severe reaction. Prison officials failed to properly diagnose Mumia's growing health crisis, and on March 30, he went into diabetic shock and fainted in the prison. He has hepatitis C and needs treatment now. Mumia's treatment by prison officials is medical neglect and malpractice.

"Why is Mumia #1 Priority? Not just because he's innocent but because he is a truth teller that they are determined to silence. If you love struggle as I do, Mumia, our comrade, must be liberated!"

Lynne Stewart

Demand Medical Care for Mumia

Online petition: <http://tinyurl.com/oytgtpl> .
Call John Wetzel, Secretary, PA Dept of Corrections, (717) 728-4109, with the following message:

"I urge you to take immediate steps to save the life of renowned journalist and political prisoner Mumia Abu-Jamal and to uncover the systemic problems that led to his life-threatening medical crisis: Allow daily visits by Mumia's family, friends, and attorneys, and Mumia's choice of specialist doctors to examine and schedule treatment for him immediately. Provide Mumia with a diet that meets his particular medical needs."

Order Mumia's latest book, "Writing on the Wall" available at City Lights Books. Read more about it at <http://tinyurl.com/pjdm8xq>

Almost 1,000 people came to the Medicare-for-All Rally July 30 in Oakland, including, for the first time, many younger adults and immigrant workers. A few SF Gray Panthers were also there.



What's in Our Water?

Our public drinking water systems contain excessive levels of potentially toxic contaminants, according to a 10-year U.S. Geological Survey study—one of the first comprehensive looks at the health of California's public water supply and groundwater. Several million Californians rely on public water systems whose supplies bear potentially high levels of naturally-occurring arsenic and uranium. Uranium can raise the risk of kidney ailments and cancer if consumed long-term at high levels. Farm irrigation draining into underground water aquifers has contributed to unsafe levels of uranium in 7% of public water supplies in the farm-rich San Joaquin Valley. Groundwater contaminated with uranium, arsenic or nitrates at several rural schools in Tulare County has put drinking fountains off limits to pupils.

Public-water systems are required to reduce many contaminants to acceptable levels before supplying customers. Statewide, about 1/3 of the State's drinking water comes from groundwater in public supply wells. The findings also show potential concerns for more than 250,000 private wells, where water quality responsibility is up to individual homeowners. The study proves the extent that agricultural irrigation, industrial pollutants and other contaminated groundwater are being added to the dwindling underground water reserves in the midst of a possibly protracted drought.

Fracking Our Water Supply and Quality

Fracking contaminants were not referred to in the study, because oil companies do not reveal all the chemicals used. Fracking is severely water intensive, using up to millions of gallons of water to frack a single well. It uses a mixture of chemicals, many of which are toxic or are known to cause human health problems. In 2011, the US Congress identified over 750 chemicals in the fracking process, including carcinogens and air pollutants under the Clean Air Act. 30,000 people signed a petition urging Gov. Brown to halt offshore fracking. Meanwhile the oil industry spent an amazing \$7.1 million lobbying Sacramento legislators from July through September, 2014. Oil companies have funded Brown's political campaigns as far back as his 1974 run for Governor. For a list of other Gray Panthers fracking articles see <http://tinyurl.com/plpd65z>

Google Buses Out!

SaveMuni.Com is an organization devoted to improving San Francisco's transit system. One of its members, Ed Mason, has been an effective observer and recorder of some of the most egregious harm these behemoth Google buses are causing.

These lumbering giants, weighing in at 60,000 pounds, are wrecking havoc. Not only are they weakening our roadways, some are actually destroying our infrastructure. One recently crashed into a Muni ramp on 24th & Church Streets. Google buses also push their way up and down streets so narrow that they require two lanes, forcing traffic to come to a halt to allow them to pass. They also ignore weight restrictions on certain streets such as Guerrero St.

Of course, it is well known that Google buses park in MUNI stops causing delays and forcing regular MUNI passengers to walk into the streets to board their buses. The congestion delays workers using either Muni or their cars to get to work on time.

Even more "buses" are in the works to accommodate Silicon Valley commuters, who escape the higher public works maintenance costs, taxes or unconscionable delays. More on the "Tech Take-over of SF" at <http://tinyurl.com/pycdjfs>.



Troops Threaten Teachers in Oaxaca

(report from New Mexico University professor)

Federal and state police troops were dispatched in mid-July to the state of Oaxaca in southern Mexico to prevent protesters from taking over local radio stations to tell the truth behind this massive police presence. Teachers are protesting the administration of Gabino Cué Monteagudo, governor of Oaxaca, and attempts to implement so-called reforms. These “reforms” are being instituted in every state in Mexico.

These reforms are part of a world-wide move to privatize education. Tactics vary. The U.S. employs methods like mandatory testing to evaluate teachers, busting unions, and restructuring public schools into charter schools. In Oaxaca, Mexico, the government is replacing current teachers with new workers who work on contract and have no labor rights. Military and Federal Police are occupying the schools, keeping regular teachers out and only allowing teachers loyal to the corrupt authorities.

Teachers in Oaxaca, home of many Zapatistas, are holding some of the most militant protests with parents, student teachers, and members of participating social organizations. Rubén Núñez Ginez of the teachers union, Section 22 part of the National Organization of Education Workers (CNTE), declared. “Once again we are showing the government that the muscle of Sec 22-CNTE is stronger than ever, we won’t stop; we will defend the rights to education of the children of Oaxaca.”

He added: “We have just entered into a new phase of our struggle. We are in a new phase of civil resistance, this is part of a national struggle.”

More at <http://tinyurl.com/o67lu72>

CCSF Still Needs Our Support

The Accrediting Commission for Community & Junior Colleges (ACCJC) refuses to back off its 2013 decision to strip Community College of SF of accreditation. ACCJC reaffirmed its decision and will not reconsider that position in spite of community protests, a lawsuit, and CCSF’s meeting many of ACCJC’s original requirements. The college will still have until January of 2017 to meet all the requirements. Progressives of SF must continue to stand with CCSF. See the Sept. 9

Birth Defects and Hawaii’s GMO Corn

Hawaii health officials are seeing birth defects in areas of Hawaii where pesticide-resistant GMO corn is grown using huge quantities of herbicides, insecticides, and fungicides, up to 17 times as much as is ordinarily used in the US mainland. Doctors state that in affected areas, severe heart malformations are ten times the US average. At one hospital, gastroschisis, where babies are born with abdominal organs outside the abdominal wall, has quadrupled since the 1980s. People are starting to resist after four failed attempts to legally curtail the chemical companies, and recently 10,000 people marched through Honolulu.

GMO corn is the main cash crop on four of the six islands, and Dow, BASF, Syngenta, and DuPont maintain tens of thousands of acres of farms where they test GMO strains for resistance to atrazine, paraquat (both banned in Europe) and chlorpyrifos. The WHO announced this year that glyphosate, (Roundup, the most common herbicides) is “probably carcinogenic in humans.” The island of Kaua’i has had 60 tons of “restricted use” pesticides dumped on it over the past three years. Fields are sprayed frequently, sometimes every two days, whether corn is growing in them or they are lying fallow, because testing corn strains for pesticide resistance requires essentially sterile soil.

In the past, the chemical companies refused to say when or where they are spraying, what chemicals they are using, or how much. Now they are in Federal court challenging Ordinance 960, which requires them to divulge this information, as well as setting up buffer zones to protect homes and schools. These measures are taken in 11 Mainland states, where much less pesticide is sprayed. The years of missing information, plus substitution of joint community/chemical-company fact-finding boards instead of real research, means that extensive epidemiological data on birth defects is hard to come by, and the State is doing nothing to change that situation.

Less than 1% of corn in Hawaii is eaten by people. 40% is made into ethanol for cars, about the same is for cattle feed, 10% is used to make high fructose corn syrup for the food industry, and the remainder is exported. Meanwhile, hunger grows.

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

Sat & Sun, Sept 6 & 7, Final Shows, SF Mime Troupe's *Freedomland*: 1:30 PM, Dolores Park, Dolores & 19th St.

Wed, Sept 9, The Future of Higher Education in SF: 6-8PM, 1661 15th St, a Jobs with Justice presentation.

Thurs, Sept 10, No Beast on Bryant: The Mission Takes On the Planning Commission: 12 PM and later, City Hall. A major anti-displacement affordable housing action at the Planning Commission meeting, plus an occupation of City Hall.

Thurs, Sept 10, CARA SF CAT Meeting: 1-3 PM, ILWU office, 1188 Franklin, 4th Fl. The SF CAT is the local chapter of CARA.

Thurs, Sept 10, Senior & Disability Action Annual Celebration/Fundraiser: 5-8 PM, The Arc, 11th & Howard.

Sun, Sept 13, Women Peacemakers Today: Walking Across the Korean DMZ: 2-4 PM, Main Library, Koret Auditorium (downstairs). Presented by WILPF SF & EB.

Sat, Sept 26, Howard Grayson LGBT Elder Life Conference: 11AM-5PM, LGBT Center, 1800 Market St.

Sat, Sept 26, Disability Unity Festival & Parade: 11AM-3PM, Civic Center Plaza. Celebrating 25 years of ADA.

Justice for Sandra Bland!

Sign a petition to send to
US Attorney General Loretta Lynch
<http://tinyurl.com/orbd17a>

