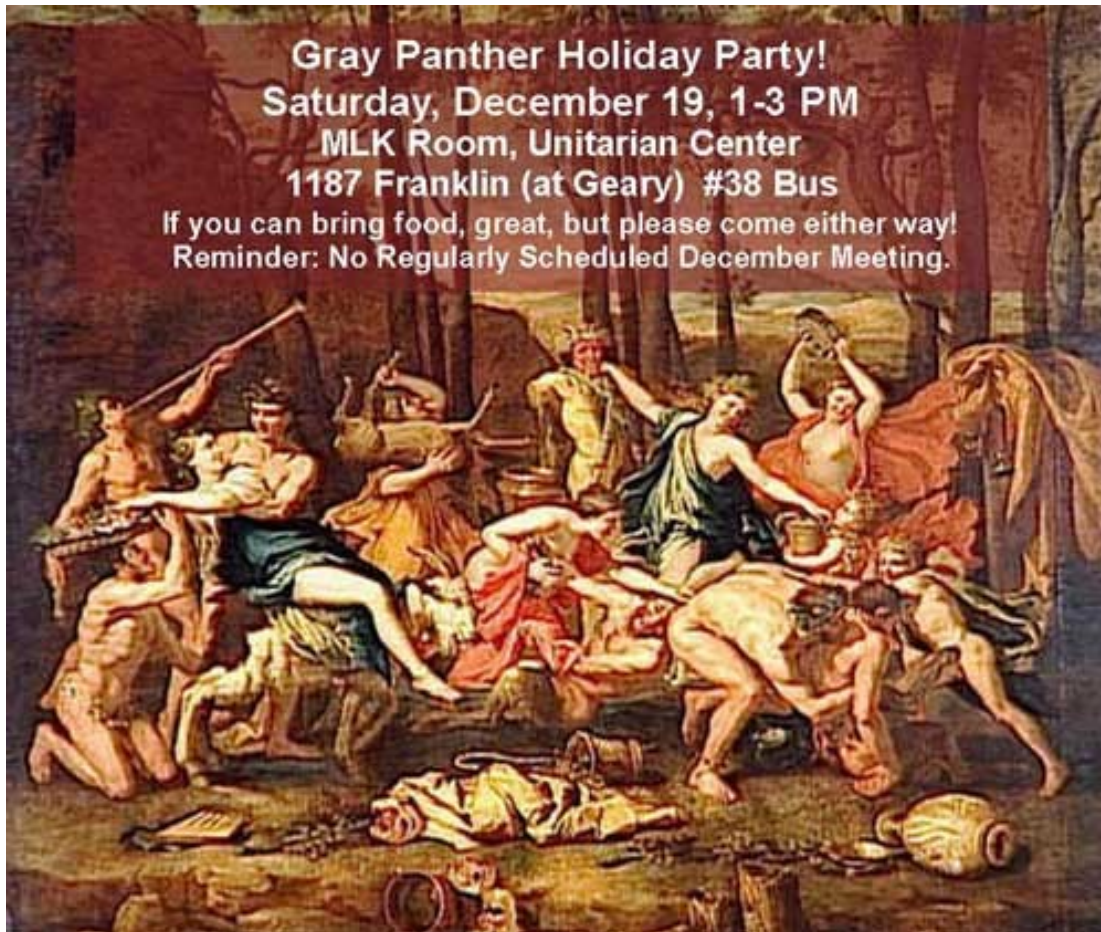


# GRAY PANTHERS OF SAN FRANCISCO



## Special 2015 Picture Pages Inside!

### GRAY PANTHERS COMMITTEE MEETINGS & EVENTS

**Supe's Budget & Finance Ctte Hearing on new SF Jail, Wed, Dec 4, 10 AM, City Hall, Rm 250.** Last chance for public comment to Supes. We strongly oppose a new jail. See back page for more.

**Board Meeting, Wed, Dec 4, 1 PM**  
**Main Library, Stong Rm, 1st Floor**  
**Members welcome.**

**Newsletter Comm, Tues, Dec 8, 2 PM**  
**Celtic Café, 142 McAllister**  
**between Hyde & Leavenworth**  
**Please call 415-215-7575 to confirm.**

**Book Club, Mon, Dec 28, 11:30 AM**  
**Celtic Café, 142 McAllister**  
**between Hyde & Leavenworth**  
**Please call 415-931-1126 to confirm.**



## Gray Panthers: A Year in Pictures



Gray Panthers at our meeting with Carol Ruth Silver



Gray Panther says "No hedge funds in our retirement fund!"



Friends of Gray Panthers on North Beach tour of evictions.



Black Lives Matter at City Hall: Stop Killing Us!



Gray Panther convener at Black Lives Matter action



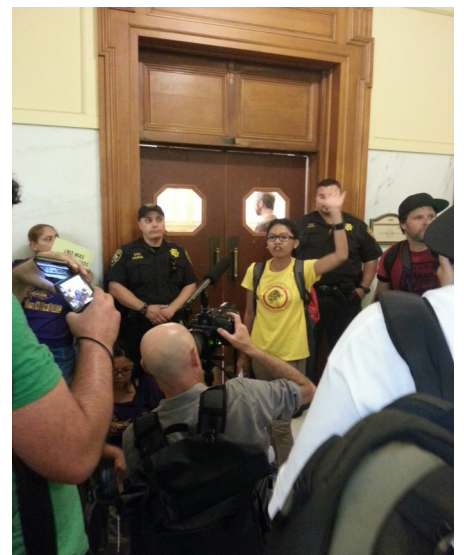
Another Gray Panther at the Black Lives Matter action



Thousands occupy City Hall demanding affordable housing



GP member and photographer at the housing occupation



Another City Hall occupation against evictions.



## Gray Panthers: A Year in Pictures



Friends of Gray Panthers at a Mission Moratorium hearing



Gray Panther at rally to stop building luxury housing



A Gray Panthers meeting on affordable housing measures



Still another demonstration against evictions



A huge number of community organizations were there



Including Gray Panthers



SF owns Yerba Buena Is., but gave it to luxury developers



Treasure Islanders residents are sick from radiation



Gray Panthers: We need Yerba Buena Is. for OUR housing!



## November GP Meeting: Syria

Paul Larudee is active in many Mid-East solidarity groups, including the Syria Solidarity Movement.

His talk emphasized (1) US and its allies are attacking the Syrian regime because it is independent and refuses to align with them, (2) the demonization of the Syrian regime is based on lies, (3) the proxy war between the US and Russia in Syria is very dangerous, and (4) ISIS is the inevitable outcome of US and allied invasions of Iraq, Afghanistan, and other Muslim countries, and now ISIS is supported by the US and its allies.

Regarding [US motives](#) in Syria, Larudee cited Gen. Wesley Clark's 2007 interview on [Democracy Now](#), saying US plans were "to take out seven countries in 5 years, starting with Iraq, and then Syria, Lebanon, Libya, Somalia, Sudan and, finishing off, Iran" Syria and Lebanon are the most non-aligned countries of the Middle East.

Larudee said Syrians support the regime, shown by the recent [election](#) (88% support, 73% voted), and that the Army is loyal because they are fighting to [protect their families](#), despite [many casualties](#). Syrians do say the regime is [autocratic](#). After accusing the regime of gas attacks, now the US [admits](#) that ISIS produces poison gas. Civilian deaths are indeed large, but the ratio of civilian-to-combatant deaths in Syria is [1/6](#) that in Vietnam.

Larudee warned that the US-Russia proxy war in Syria could lead to direct fighting between them. Following the ISIS [downing](#) of the Russian airliner over Sinai, Russia [deployed](#) strategic bombers and advanced fighters in Syria, and bombed ISIS strongholds. The US then deployed F15C jets, whose [only](#) use is air-to-air warfare. He said Russia is [serious](#) about Syria and won't back down.

Lastly, Larudee showed how the US invasion and breakdown of Iraq [led](#) to forming ISIS, just as the Afghanistan invasion led to the Taliban and then Al-Qaeda. Displaced Iraqi Baath party members now [direct](#) ISIS, and "moderate" rebels [ally](#) with al-Qaeda. Most of ISIS's weapons, including tanks and missiles, are produced in the US, ISIS gets them by [capturing](#) them from the dysfunctional Iraqi army, or [buying](#) them from US allies.

As you can imagine, there were many questions.

## Another Twist on Transportation

The push for privatization fostered by private enterprise is continuing. The latest is "Leap" a city type bus following the Muni route downtown to the Marina District. The fare is \$6.00. Not only does the fare alone discourage ordinary ridership but one needs a smart phone to get on and access to the Internet and a printer.

These buses or shuttles are refurbished city buses. The amenities include soft music, wood paneling, polished grey floors, armchairs, banquettes or plush stools along a wooden counter. Passengers can buy snacks and beverages that are kept cool with an on-board refrigerator.

The vehicles are not accessible for wheelchairs and there are no special fares for either the elderly or school children.

Kyle Kirchhoff, Leap CEO says, "Kind of think of it like a lounge on wheels." Source *KQED, The California Report*.



November 10th was a National Day of Action for Fight for \$15 minimum wage and unions for fast-food workers. Some 300 areas had actions. In San Francisco, hundreds went into the Mission/24th MacDonalds at 6 AM. You could hardly turn around, and the glass quivered at the sound of us shouting at the top of our lungs, demanding justice, a (barely) living wage, and a union. Photo from Beyond Chron.

## Increased Death Rates Say Fight Back

The Washington Post reported [\(9-18-2015\)](#) that the gap in life expectancy between poorest and richest more than doubled between 1980 and 2010. For the poorest 1/5th, men lost a half year of life expectancy, while women lost a stunning four years. The richest fifth gained 7 years of life.

Meanwhile, the New York Times reports [\(11-3-20-15\)](#) that low-income middle-aged white Americans are dying at increased rates. They are dying not from heart disease or diabetes, but from an epidemic of suicide, alcoholism, drug addiction and overdoses of heroin and prescription opioids. (Black middle-age mortality, though declining, is still 40% higher than white middle-age mortality)

The causes for the increased white middle-age mortality, as cited by the National Academy of Sciences are: wage stagnation with inflation, loss of economic security, no likelihood of improvement, and no prospect of retirement, particularly with defined-contribution pensions or none at all. Over the 1999-2014 study period, inflation-adjusted income for households headed by high-school graduates fell 19%. Opioid abuse was also related to high levels of joint pain and sciatica resulting from overwork in many manual labor jobs.

The message from this is crystal-clear: White workers have not been hit by the economic onslaught of the last 40 years as hard as Blacks and Latins, but even for whites, that onslaught, coupled with not fighting back and trying to individually cope, has been literally leads to suicide.

There are many forces encouraging passivity, from police terror, to lack of fighting unions, to an emphasis on individualism, but these figures show that passively and individually accepting these attacks on us is driving us crazy and killing us, no matter what our so-called race.

This is why we need to not only honor, but follow the example of the brave people in Ferguson and Baltimore, who fought together and whose rebellion challenged the economic system that's enslaving (and killing) us all. Ultimately, we need to run society for the benefit of us, the working class.

## Paper Trail: Indonesia is Burning

Indonesian forest are being burned down to plant trees for paper-making. Smoke from these burning forests can be seen from space. People cannot breathe and are dying from the lack of oxygen.

Paper production is the third most energy-intensive of all manufacturing industries, using over 12% of all energy in the industrial sector. 40% of the world's industrial logging goes into making paper, and this is expected to reach 50% in the near future. The paper and pulp industry is also the fourth largest emitter of greenhouse gases in the manufacturing sector.

Paper towels and, in fact, all white paper products, are made with destructive chemicals such as chlorine, and Dioxin (the stuff they used in Vietnam). Most of the residue from paper making winds up in our rivers, in fish and then in us.

The U.S. is 5% of the world's population but uses over 25% of its resources, and North Americans consume more paper per capita – upwards of 500 lbs. annually – than anyone else on earth.

Do we really need to print on one side of the paper? Do we really need all the paper we use? How about sharing? (After all we are in a sharing economy, ask Lyft or Airbnb.)

Our need for convenience and instant gratification is destroying our planet. The resources and people we exploit for our “convenience” are the very people who use minimal resources but suffer the most for our “convenience.”



## Gray Panthers of SF

2940 16th Street, Room 200 – 4  
San Francisco, CA 94103  
415-552-8800  
<http://graypantherssf.igc.org/>  
[graypanther-sf@sonic.net](mailto:graypanther-sf@sonic.net)

Nonprofit Org.

U.S. Postage

PAID

San Francisco, CA

Permit No. 12977

ADDRESS SERVICE  
REQUESTED

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 December 2015

## Actions and Events (Complete on-line Calendar at <http://tinyurl.com/2gy6enb>)

**Tues, Dec 1, Film Showing: *Fall of the I-Hotel*.**  
451 Jersey, Noe Valley. Beautiful and heart-  
rending. <http://tinyurl.com/pfhrceb>.

**Wed, Dec 2, Tell the Supes Committee: No New  
SF Jail:** 10 AM, City Hall, Rm 250. This is the  
last chance to make public comment on building a  
new jail, which we oppose. More at <http://tinyurl.com/nzn2joc> Slight possibility of hear-  
ing being postponed to 4 PM. Call 415-215-7575.

**Thurs, Dec 3, Hearing on CPMC's  
Compliance to Promises to Community:**  
10 AM-Noon, City Hall, Rm 400. Major  
issues remain in providing health care in  
the St Luke's and Tenderloin areas.

**Tues, Dec 8, Let the Full Board of Su-  
pes You Oppose a New SF Jail:** 2 PM,  
City Hall, Rm 250. This is the Board's fi-  
nal decision. No public comment allowed,  
but a big crowd makes a statement.

**Thurs, Dec 10, Senior & Disability Action  
Meeting:** 10AM-12 Noon. 1187 Franklin.  
<http://tinyurl.com/q7po7mq>

**Thurs, Dec 10, CARA SF CAT Meeting:** 1-3  
PM, ILWU office, 1188 Franklin at Geary, 4th Fl.  
<http://tinyurl.com/qzhvzk7>

**Thurs, Dec 10, Demonstration Against Hang-  
ing Nooses and Other On-the-Job Racism:** 5-6  
PM, SF Recology (site of a noose incident), 50  
California. <http://tinyurl.com/pjszwww>

**Wed, Dec 16, Senior & Disability Action Hous-  
ing Collaborative:** 1-3 PM, 1360 Mission, 4th Fl.

**Wed, Dec 16, SF Living Wage Coalition:** 6-8  
PM, Redstone Bldg, 2940 16th St, 3rd Floor.

**Sat, Dec 19, Gray Panthers Holiday Party:** 1-3  
PM, Unitarian Center, 1187 Franklin, MLK Room.  
All welcome.