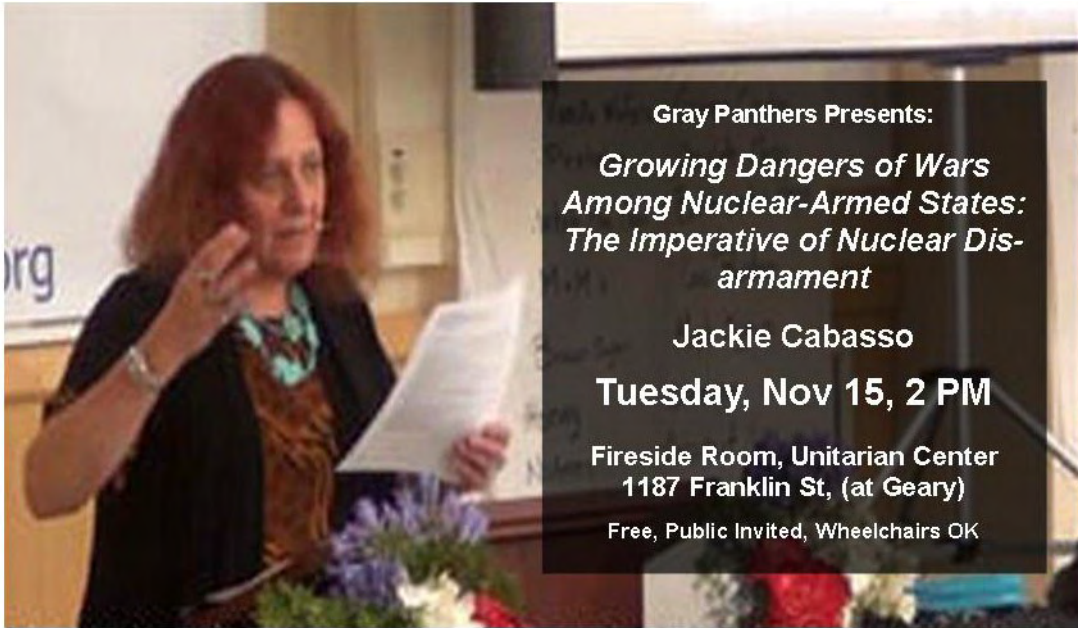


GRAY PANTHERS OF SAN FRANCISCO



On November 15 Gray Panthers is honored to have as our speaker, Jackie Cabasso. She is the Executive Director of Western States Legal Foundation, which has been involved in nuclear disarmament, peace, and environmental advocacy here and over the world. See p 2. We will meet at 1 PM to discuss business; program begins at 2 PM.

SPECIAL GRAY PANTHER PROGRAM:

Panel Discussion: *When the Election Dust Settles, Who Really Runs the United States? And Why It's Important.*

Saturday, Nov 19, 1-4 PM, Univ of San Francisco

**Come to hear our panel of distinguished political analysts.
Read more on page 2.**

Tues, Nov 15, 1 PM, Gray Panther General Meeting (See above.)

Tues, Nov 15, 3 PM, SF Gray Panthers Newsletter Meeting #2: Fireside Room, Unitarian Center, 1187 Franklin (at Geary). (Right after General Meeting.)

Sat, Nov 19, 1-4 PM, Special Gray Panther Panel Discussion on Elections and Power in the US. (See above.)

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

November 15 GP Meeting Jackie Cabasso, Nuclear Dangers

Jackie Cabasso directs the Western States Legal Foundation, which monitors and analyzes U.S. nuclear weapons programs and policies and related high technology energy and weapons programs.

Jackie Cabasso has been continuously active in nuclear disarmament, peace and environmental advocacy for decades. She has spoken at public hearings, legislative symposia and conferences around the United States, Europe, Asia, and Latin America, and has addressed rallies and gatherings at the Livermore and Los Alamos nuclear weapons laboratories, at US nuclear test sites, and in Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

She told the Northern Calif Climate Mobilization:

“Today, in Syria, the U.S., Russia and now France - three nuclear-armed nations – are bombing side-by-side and on different sides. In Ukraine and Eastern Europe, the two major nuclear powers, the U.S. and Russia, are fighting on opposite sides of the conflicts. There, U.S. nuclear armed allies, Britain, France and Israel, are also involved. An accidental or intentional military incident could send the world spiraling into a disastrous nuclear confrontation. The recent bombing attacks on neutral hospitals remind us that in the chaos of war such mistakes are all too common.

To add to the potential conflicts, the U.S. and China, another nuclear-armed nation, are facing off against each other in the seas bordering China and other Asian nations. The danger of wars among nuclear-armed states is growing.

And there's no end in sight. The United States is planning to spend \$1 billion dollars over the next three decades to modernize its nuclear arsenal.”

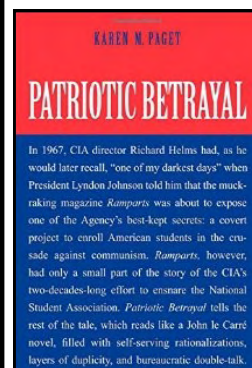
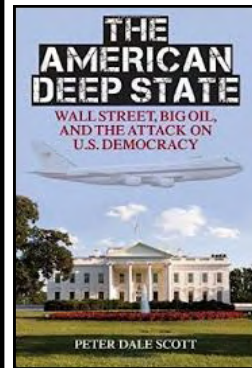
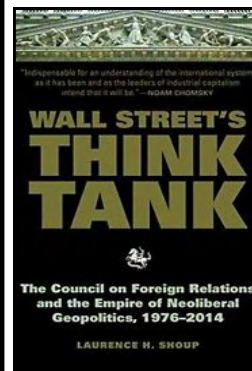
Now, even some public officials are becoming alarmed at increasing international tensions and danger of nuclear war. This June, the US Conference of Mayors adopted a resolution *Calling on the Next U.S. President to Pursue Diplomacy with Other Nuclear-Armed States; Participate in Negotiations for the Elimination of Nuclear Weapons; Cut Nuclear Weapons Spending and Redirect Funds to Meet the Needs of Cities.*

When the Election Dust Settles, Who Really Runs the United States? And Why It's Important.

A Political Roundtable with:

Lawrence Shoup, author, *Wall Street's Think Tank*
Peter Dale Scott, author, *The American Deep State*
Stephen Zunes, author, *Tinderbox*
David Talbot, founder, *Salon Magazine*
Rebecca Gordo, author, *American Nuremberg*
Karen M. Paget, author, *Patriotic Betrayal*
Peter Phillips, author, *Project Censored*

Saturday, November 19, 1-4 PM
University of San Francisco, Fromm Hall
Maraschi Room (#125)
2497 Golden Gate Ave (on Parker)
Free, Wheelchairs OK



Join the Gray Panthers of San Francisco and other groups for a post-election roundtable discussion of power in the United States: who has it, and what it's likely to mean in the next period.

The 2016 election has been called the most important election since 1932, but why? Does it represent a fragmentation or consolidation of power? Looming issues range from the future of Social Security and Medicare and the influence of Peter Peterson, former president of the Council on Foreign Relations, to the developing collision course with Russia and China, and the influence of the Pentagon generals urging escalation in Syria.

With analysts like these sitting at the same table, you can be sure this will be an afternoon of important and interesting political discussion. Please join us.

Paul Robeson Event

By B.A. Lee

At Gray Panthers' suggestion, Paul Robeson was honored at the Negro Spirituals Heritage Day on October 22. Several Gray Panthers of SF and Berkeley too were among the 300 beautifully diverse people gathered on October 22nd, Heritage Day, at the West Oakland Senior Center to celebrate the four 2016 heritage keepers honored by Friends of Negro Spirituals.

Mitzi and Barbara received the large framed certificate honoring our nominee, Paul Robeson (1898-1976). Remember Robeson Committee members Alex and Harriet Bagwell sang *Every Time I Hear the Spirit, Go Down Moses, Scandalize my Name, Balm in Gilead*, and the *Hasidic Chant*. We hope to hear them again next spring at the launching of the Remember Robeson Songbook.



Alex and Harriet Bagwell



Mitzi and Barbara and Lyvonne Chrisman

Letter to Gray Panthers

November 02, 2016

To: Gray Panthers of San Francisco
Ms. Barbara Lee and Ms. Deetje Boler
From: Sam Edwards and Lyvonne Chrisman,
Co-chairs, *The 13th Annual Negro Spirituals Heritage Day Committee*

Dear Ms. Lee and Ms. Boler:



Friends of Negro Spirituals is thrilled that you and the Gray Panthers of San Francisco nominated the late Paul Leroy Bustill Robeson for its *Negro Spirituals Heritage Keeper's Award* this year. Because of the nomination, Friends of Negro Spirituals was given the very special honor of paying homage to the world's citizen who made invaluable contributions to the preservation of the heritage of Negro Spirituals during his time. Robeson was simply amazing. He had a fervent and an unabashed attitude regarding winning respectability for spirituals at a time in history when many of his peers were a shame of them. Without doubt, the Bagwell duet gave an excellent performance of the music and spirit of Robeson; Alex clearly has a great fund of knowledge about Robeson.

Let us add this point; your nomination of Robeson also enabled our audience to learn about your organization, The Gray Panther of San Francisco, which is doing a very important work of keeping the memory of Robeson alive through its Paul Robeson Committee.

On behalf of the membership and members of the Board of Directors of Friends of Negro Spirituals, and on behalf of ourselves as co-founders of Friends of Negro Spirituals, we thank you for taking part in our Thirteenth Annual Negro Spirituals Heritage Day. It was really wonderful to have had you as such a special part of it.

We are wishing you the best on the book on the upcoming newsletter.

Keeping the Bond with Our Enslaved Ancestors and Their Song,

Sam Edwards and Lyvonne Chrisman, Co-founder, Friends of Negro Spirituals and Co-chairs of the Negro Spirituals Heritage Day Committee

Public Option in Obamacare Won't Help

Because of huge increases in health insurance premiums, deductibles, and co-pays, plus the exit of major insurers from the insurance purchasing Exchanges, Clinton and others have proposed the Public Option, essentially allowing people to buy into Medicare as their insurer on the Exchanges.

For those of us who want Medicare for everyone (single-payer or Medicare-for-All) this might seem like a good thing, a step toward Medicare for All.

However, having a government-operated Public Option similar to Medicare in competition with private insurance will actually lead to disaster, because it would take one of two equally dangerous paths.

If the Public Option plan tried to provide good comprehensive care like Medicare, it would be swamped with sick patients who need more care than insurance-based plans provide, so it would have to raise its premiums. This would leave it with fewer even-sicker patients. This process would repeat itself until the Public Option plan went into a death spiral. Anti-Medicare legislators tried to make this happen in the 1993 Medicare Modernization Act, that also gave us our privatized Medicare drug benefit.

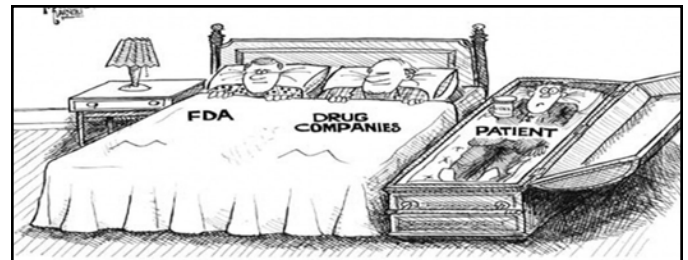
If, on the other hand, the Public Option tried to provide constant, affordable, and competitive premiums, the ever-rising cost of for-profit drugs, hospital care, medical equipment etc, would inevitably force the Public Option plan to restrict its care, narrow its network of doctors, reduce the number of drugs provided, and generally provide second- or third-class health care. Moreover, as private insurance premiums continued to rise, the inferior Public Option plan would become the necessary choice for the vast majority of the working class, and only the richest 5% could afford to get better care through private insurance. This would be the more likely fate of the Public Option.

Ultimately, there is no way we can win equal, universal, comprehensive, accessible, and affordable health care without fighting the profit system in all health care. There is no plan that is so smart or so perfect that it allows us to avoid this fight.

Americans Want Drug Price Constraints

A very recent Kaiser Family Foundation Poll found 82% want to allow Medicare to negotiate prices (not allowed by Congress); 78% want to limit prices for high-cost drugs like those for cancer or Hep-C.

About 80% of research and development costs for drugs are paid by Federal grants, so drug companies shouldn't be able to own patents on the drugs they sell. Now drug makers even make deals with generics makers to keep generic prices up. Eight of the 10 drugs that had big cost increases between 2013 and 2014 were made by multiple manufacturers. Among them were five drugs that more than doubled in price. We need to swing a bigger club against drug manufacturers.



Prop C Fallout

By now, Prop C, the housing bond, may have passed. Too bad that less than half of the \$260 million would go to renovating "affordable" housing, with the remainder going to market-rate residential, commercial, and institutional buildings.

Developers who funded Prop C: Kilroy Realty of LA, \$50,000; PG&E of SF, \$25,000; Mariposa Development of Irvine CA, \$16,667; Transbay Blocks of Irvine CA, \$16,667; 1421 Capital of SF, \$10,000; Boston Properties of Boston, \$5,000; Cybernet Entertainment of SF, \$5,000; Nibbi Brothers Associates of SF, \$5,000; SF Baseball Associates, \$5,000; John Stewart Company of SF, \$5,000; Surplus Lands for Public Use, \$4,600; Residential Builders Association of SF, \$3,500. (A partial list, includes trade unions, and management companies such as Mercy Housing, etc.)

Present renters in renovating buildings may suffer out and out eviction or at least temporary displacement, without protection of their rights. They may also suffer a change of building management and policies, months of loss of access to possessions in storage, and cramped replacement living quarters during renovation.

SFMTA: Stop Cutting MUNI Stops!

SFMTA must not cut the *three* northbound 19-Polk stops by the Main Library. The are (1) Hyde/8th St/Market (the side entrance to the Library), (2) Grove/Larkin (the main entrance to the Library), and (3) McAllister/Larkin (the main entrance to the Asian Art Museum). It would force would-be riders to walk to proposed stops at Hyde/McAllister or 7th/Market, which are farther away and across streets with very irregular traffic and dicey surroundings.

ACTION requested! Please call 311 and tell the operator that you want to keep these three stops by the Main Library (naming them, as above), and that you object to their removal because that creates unnecessary danger to would-be riders crossing streets to get to more distant bus stops. SFMTA's own stats show that the Grove/Larkin stop is the most heavily used on that bus line. Ask the operator to forward the message 1) to SFMTA and 2) to the Mayor.

You'll be glad you did and so will the bus riders. You could also attend the next Board of Directors meeting on November 15 at 1 PM in Room 400, City Hall. You'll be able to see the Mayor's appointees in operation, as well as some SFMTA planners -- and hopefully a lot of determined Muni riders.

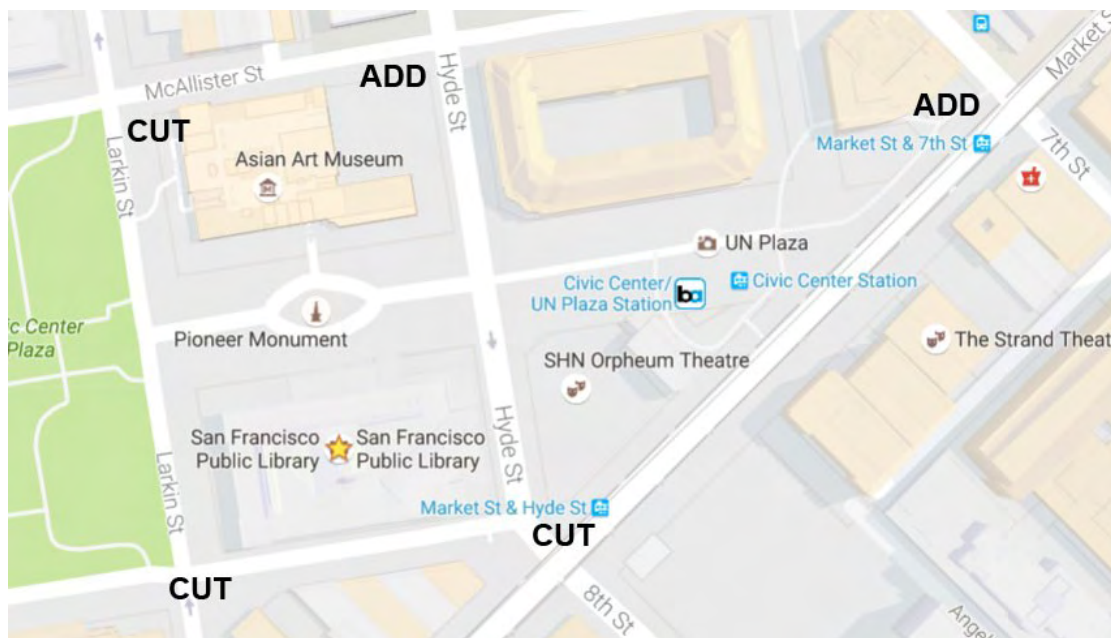
Gertrude Stein was right! There is no there there. SFMTA's sprawling bureaucracy is difficult to

fathom. Diligent planners there, unnamed, unfindable, dream up changes to Muni without regard for the convenience and needs of whom? The riders!

Their attitude that bus riders are nuisances who slow down route times has got to be corrected. Their (whoever or wherever *they* are) operant policy has become that of reducing the number of bus stops to the point of absurdity, leaving would-be riders (or should we call them 'waitees'?) to walk ever longer distances (*e.g. 4 blocks on Van Ness Avenue*) to reach whatever stops remain after they (barely) announce cuts and hold one of their "informational meetings" somewhere and then proceed despite whatever protests, objections or suggestions are made, implacably to institute the cuts. It's hard to tolerate this disregard of the needs of the riders, particularly since they and we know how urgent it is that more people get out of their cars and onto public transit for pressing environmental reasons: less auto exhaust, less demand for fossil fuels, etc., and greater pedestrian safety.

But no, the Mayor's tribe of transit geniuses dream up extravagant plans that put riders' safety, comfort and convenience at risk in order to obey the Mayor's orders to meet imaginary traffic "calming" and "safety" goals. They blithely put pedestrians (would-be riders) at greater risk in getting to the doors of the buses when and if they arrive.

Enough! Time to disband this impregnable bureaucracy grinding away -- and return Muni management to Muni.



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

ADDRESS SERVICE
REQUESTED

Call the office for membership information.

Printed In House November 2016

More Actions and Events

(Complete on-line Calendar at <http://tinyurl.com/ce2gy6enb>)

Tues, Nov 8, 11 AM, Senior & Disability Action's Health Action Team Meeting: ILRC, 825 Howard St.

Thurs, Nov 10, 10 AM, Senior & Disability Action General Meeting: Unitarian Center, 1187 Franklin.

Thurs, Nov 10, 1 PM, CARA SF CAT Meeting: ILWU Office, 1188 Franklin

Tues, Nov 15, 6:30 AM to Noon, Stand with Standing Rock Tribe Against the Dakota Access Pipeline: Civic Center Plaza.

Tues, Nov 15, 1 PM, Gray Panthers Meet. See pages 1 and 2

Wed, Nov 16, 1 PM, Senior & Disability Action's Housing Collaborative Meeting: 4th Floor, 1360 Mission, near 10th St. Demand housing for all.

Wed, Nov 16, 6 PM, SF Living Wage Coalition Meeting: Rm 301, 2940 16th St, at Capp, 1 block from 16th St. BART

Thurs, Nov 17, 10 AM, Special City Hearing on CPMC's Obligations to the St Luke's Hospital and the Tenderloin: City Hall, Rm 400. Significant issues remain. Please attend.

Sat, Nov 19, 10 AM, OWL-SF Meeting on End-of-Life Wishes: 555 Ellis (betw Hyde & Leavenworth)

Sat, Nov 19, Gray Panthers Special Program on Power After the Elections. See page 2