

GRAY PANTHERS OF SAN FRANCISCO

Come to our Holiday Party!



**Also ... Join Gray Panthers to Read the
Universal Declaration of Human Rights
City Hall Steps, Friday, Dec 9, 12 Noon**



The Universal Declaration of Human Rights was established in 1948, in the aftermath of world-wide depression and war.

It asserted people's civil rights (freedom of speech, freedom from arbitrary detention, freedom from discrimination, etc.)

And it also asserted people's rights to the necessities of life (housing, healthcare, employment, education, etc.)

In this coming time of world-wide racism, misogyny, xenophobia, political and social violence, repression, austerity, privatization, and preparation for war, the Universal Declaration is more relevant than ever. Join us as we reassert our humanity and our commitment to defend ourselves and each other. Alex and Harriet Bagwell will sing.

CONSIGNED TO DEATH: Children and People of Color

By Denise D'Anne

One has to wonder when, as a society, we find it routine that police killing of boys and men of color is acceptable. This is borne out by the fact that a murder of people of color by police has not led to any prosecution. As with wars we have been inculcated with the idea that the enemy is 'the other,' or, subhuman and therefore they are legitimate targets for torture and killing. As Gary Younge of *The Guardian* says, "The precise alchemy that makes one particular death politically totemic while others go un-mourned beyond their families and communities is not quite clear." He also noted that every day, on average, seven children and teens are killed by guns.

What is clear outside the usual gun violence, that there is an endemic of killings of Blacks by police. In 2016 alone police killed 233 blacks.

And now with Trump elevated to the Presidency, we can expect more killings as Trump built his reputation on racism, misogyny, homophobia and Islamophobia.

We, as a compassionate society, must take seriously any killings by our gun culture or by police. That means speaking out and joining with organizations, such as Black Life Matters. Every life has value.



Charlotte NC after police murder of Keith Scott

Torture and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights

Trump promises to bring back waterboarding as an interrogation method for the CIA. Waterboarding is normally considered torture. US legal obstacles exist to re-introducing waterboarding, but it is also outlawed by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR).

UDHR Convention, Article 5: No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.

Human Rights Watch reported on torture by the CIA, October 3rd. The website includes reports on abuses worldwide, from Egypt's Scorpion Prison to the abusive police force in Pakistan -- to war crimes in Afghanistan -- to the 100 executions since January 1st in Saudi Arabia -- to torture in Ukraine, Burundi and even the USA. The CIA was reported to have committed the international crime of torture during the "war on terrorism". Detainees Rodha al-Nugjar and Lofti El Gherissi, Tunisian nationals sent to Cobalt in Afghanistan in 2002, describe hanging by their hands for 3 months, taken down only once every 24 hours.

Please come to the public reading of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights on City Hall Steps on Friday, November 9, at Noon. The following day is Human Rights Day, celebrating the 1948 United Nations passage of the UDHR.



Eleanor Roosevelt was a driving force in creation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

A Small Victory!

Congratulations! As of their meeting on November 15, the Board of Directors of the S.F. Municipal Transportation Commission restricted their Muni planners from eliminating the 19-Polk northbound bus stops by the Main Library. They were directed by the Board to go back to the drawing boards for “safety” changes to the line where it crosses Market Street at 7th Street and not to come back for three months. Indeed, the President of the Board suggested into looking into running it up to cross Market Street on 9th Street instead of 7th Street.

Members of the riding public, including the Library User’s Association as well as some hotel managers, wrote and/or attended the meeting to oppose the planners’ proposed plan to create boarding islands on 7th Street -- as well as re-routing it across Market Street at 7th Street onto McAllister, thus cutting out the stops near the Library. Objections by hotel representatives to the mid-street boarding island were based on patrons with luggage needing to negotiate crossing the traffic lane between the curb and a boarding island in the middle of the street. Boarding islands clearly add safety risks to pedestrians and, to add insult to injury, they leave bus patrons waiting standing in the middle of traffic instead of waiting seated in a bus shelter on the sidewalk. Besides creating hazards to bus patrons, the costs of such street modifications need to be accounted for.

Anyway, we need to follow up with letters to SFMTA Board -- and Mayor Lee, who has instructed them to increase safety on the streets -- insisting on reduction of traffic risks to pedestrians that are being put at risk by Muni planners’ focus on taking a few minutes off bus runs.

They need to be reminded that almost half of the traffic victims treated at S.F. General, where accident victims are taken, are pedestrians, not vehicle occupants.

They must consider safety in making changes to Muni routes, especially increasing the distances between bus stops, thus forcing riders to walk further to catch a bus or to get where they’re going afterwards, not to mention their discontinuing entire bus runs (e.g., the Valencia bus line, part of the Clement bus line -- restore these cuts!)

However, that is not all we need to tell the SFMTC! A more pressing emergency is looming: cutting down the hundreds of trees on Van Ness Avenue that are in the way of SFMTA’s plans to put boarding islands in their place down the middle of the street. These beautiful trees, pouring oxygen into the exhaust-filled air, are absolutely needed. Anyone heard of climate change problems? Well, there’s a climate crime right on our doorstep about to be perpetrated. What did the Department of the Environment or the Bay Area Air Quality Board or any other of our public agencies or representatives or non-profits have to say about this plan? All this expensive construction and needless destruction and increased risks to pedestrians forced to cross the street to get on and off buses in order to theoretically shave a few minutes off bus runs?

NO! Sue Bierman (who became one of our most beloved members of the Board of Supervisors) kept this thoroughfare traffic from being routed through Golden Gate Panhandle. Remember that battle? When asked how she did it, she answered: “Don’t take no for an answer.”

No More Endless Solitary Confinement!

Great News! The Center of Constitutional Rights reports that in the year since the so-called *Ashker* case that ended indefinite solitary confinement in California prisons, the number of prisoners in indefinite solitary confinement has decreased 99%, and the Pelican Bay Prison’s long-term (10+ years) has also decreased 99%. All are to be released to the general population soon. Among civilized countries, solitary confinement for more than a few weeks is considered torture,

So-called SHUs (Security Housing Units), prisons within prisons, kept prisoners accused of gang affiliation in solitary confinement in 6 x 10 foot cells for up to four decades at time, with no phone calls or other human contact. Guards abused prisoners in obscene ways, including putting feces in their food. There was no way of getting out besides naming other prisoners as gang members.

Credit for freeing prisoners from solitary confinement belongs to the prisoners themselves, who, organized three hunger strikes in five years which involved thousands of prisoners in many California prisons. They also filed the *Ashkur* lawsuit.

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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.

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More Actions and Events

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

Thurs, Dec 8, 10 AM, Senior & Disability Action General Meeting: Unitarian Center, 1187 Franklin.

Thurs, Dec 8, 1 PM, CARA SF CAT Holiday Party: ILWU Office, 1188 Franklin

Sat, Dec 10, Noon, OWL-SF Potluck Holiday Brunch: 555 Ellis

Tues, Dec 13, 11 AM, Senior & Disability Action's Health Action Team Meeting: ILRC, 825 Howard St.

Tues, Dec 20, 1 PM, Gray Panthers Holiday Party. See opposite side.

Wed, Dec 21, 1 PM, Senior & Disability Action's Housing Collaborative Meeting: 4th Floor, 1360 Mission, near 10th St. Demand housing for all.

Wed, Dec 21, 6 PM, SF Living Wage Coalition Meeting: Rm 301, 2940 16th St, at Capp, 1 block from 16th St. BART

Sat, Jan 14, Gray Panthers Special Post-Election Political Roundtable, Part 2. 1-4 PM. Call 415-215-7575 for info.

Fri, Jan 20, 5 PM, Protest Against Trump on Inauguration Day: UN Plaza, Civic Center BART