



Web Site: <http://www.owlsf.org>

January - March 2012

Email: owlsanfran@juno.com

OWL is the ONLY national membership organization to focus exclusively on critical issues facing women as they age. We work together to improve the status and quality of life for midlife and older women through national, state and local networks.

OWL SF invites you to:

OWL SF Planning Meeting for 2012

Saturday, January 28th

10:00 am - 2:30 pm

Unitarian Universalist Church

1187 Franklin at Geary, Fireside Room

(Take the #38 Geary to Franklin,
or the #47 or #49 on Van Ness to
Geary and walk one block west)

Lunch provided

RSVP necessary: Call OWL office to leave message: 415 989-4422

Or email info@owlsf.org

At this very important meeting, we develop priorities, plans, and programs for the coming year. It is essential to have your input! What directions do YOU want OWL to take in this coming year?

Recent successful planning meetings have been coordinated by professional facilitator and OWL, Judi Sahagen, who has agreed to assist us again this year.

We encourage as many of you as possible to attend. In addition to providing your program input, enjoy the opportunity to lunch with other OWL SF members. (In order to be sure there's enough lunch for everyone, you must RSVP.)

Please join us!

We need your ideas and want your company!

Members and guests interested in OWL are welcome.

Older Women's League * 870 Market Street, #905, San Francisco, Ca. 94102

Phone 415-989-4422 * Web site: www.owlsf.org

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It was suggested that I try to sum up the last year in this end-of-year and last letter of my presidency. A tall order, but I'll try to hit some of the highlights.

Good stuff and progress:

Programs: We have had many interesting and diverse programs this year, focusing on some major issues, both national and local. There was a good mix of programs emphasizing issues, socializing, and topics for the individual.

Focus on national issues was particularly involved with the program on Social Security, as well as the rally at Sen. Feinstein's office in August organized by CARA. The program on Occupy SF merged national and local concerns. Local issues were involved in the successful programs on CPMC, the program on San Francisco ballot initiatives, and the program featuring a park developed by the local community.

There was plenty of time to enjoy the company of other OWL's, particularly at the summer potluck, the winter holiday party, and the picnic at Michelangelo Park. We were fortunate to be able to enjoy learning about the work of other OWL's with Inge Horton's talk about local female architects and by attendance at the Legacy Film Festival. We also had an informative session on organizing our important documents.

Communications: Our excellent bi-monthly newsletter has been sent to members and posted on the website. The website itself needs work, however you can always find meeting information and many events posted on the calendar.

Membership: Membership has increased. I think this is because of our excellent programs (and possibly our magnetic personalities.)

Committee Structure: We have been struggling to solidify a committee structure since I became an OWL member a long time ago, and I think it's finally happening. This is one of the true strengths of the organization. The Political Advocacy committee is at the heart of this and is responsible for developing many of the programs, positions on issues, coordination with other groups.

Infrastructure: We have had some real challenges trying to organize the office procedures around the QuickBooks program. However, under the tutelage of Merna Strassner, we are making progress.

Challenges:

Fortunately I'm running out of room, so we will have to discuss these challenges more at the Planning meeting. We need to grow the good things and improve others – the website, our membership programs, and the entire office computer involvement. We need to focus on our changing relationships with OWL National and OWL-CA and we need to establish ourselves as an independent organization. Most of all, we need to get more involvement and help from membership. Too much of the burden rests on a few people. We are a vital and growing organization and we need more input to continue this. We need your help, so plan to attend the planning meeting with your input, ideas, hearts and hands.

—*Kathie Piccagli*

Kathie Piccagli, President
Mary Anderton
Maxine Anderson
Robin Brasso
Melanie Grossman
Amy Hittner
Glenda Hope
Jonee Levy
Margaret Lew

Nan McGuire
Sheila Malkind
Eunice Rosenberg
Juliet Rothman
Ruth Strassner

Newsletter
Margaret Lew, Editor
Carole Isaacs, Assistant Editor

SF OWL Board meetings: first Monday of the month, 4:00-6:00 pm, 870 Market St.
Phone: (415) 989-4422
Email: owlsanfran@juno.com
Web: www.owlsf.org
Mail: 870 Market St., Room 905, San Francisco, CA 94102

**Save the Date:
California DISCLOSE, AB 1148
San Francisco Campaign Kickoff**

The San Francisco Working Group for Clean and Fair Elections invites you to help expose big campaign money! Join us at the SF Campaign Kickoff for AB 1148, the California DISCLOSE Act

Sunday, January 8th 2:00-4pm
San Francisco Main Library
100 Larkin St, entrance on Grove St

Speakers: Senator Mark Leno, Senator Leland Yee, Assemblymember Tom Ammiano, Supervisor John Avalos and Trent Lange, President, California Clean Money Campaign.

MCs: Maxine Anderson, Board Member, League of Women Voters of SF & Older Women's League SF
Helen Grieco, Organizer, Northern California Common Cause

Sponsor: California Clean Money Campaign
Co-Sponsors: American Friends Service Committee, San Francisco Bernal Heights Democratic Club, Greenlining Institute, Harvey Milk LGBT Democratic Club, League of Women Voters of San Francisco
Older Women's League SF, Potrero Hill Democratic Club, Progressive Democrats of America – SF Chapter, San Francisco Common Cause, San Francisco Democratic Women in Action, San Francisco for Democracy, San Francisco Green Party, San Francisco Living Wage Coalition and others to be announced

Refreshments will be served
RSVP: www.yesfairelections.org

Questions: SF-info@Caclean.org, 415-648-6740

For more information about AB 1148 see California Clean Money Campaign web pages: www.CAclean.org • www.CleanandFairSF.org

AB 1148, if successful, will make its way through the legislature, with amendments along the way, and onto the governor's desk in fall 2012 and likely onto the June 2014 ballot. The first Assembly committee will have a hearing on AB 1148 in January, and it must pass Assembly committees and an Assembly floor vote by the end of January.

OWL SF will be sponsoring a table at this event and volunteers are needed to represent our organization! Contact the OWL office.

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Thank you Thank you Thank you!

• The results of our End of Year Appeal letter have
• been gratifying. In past years some have come in
• January, so there is still time to send that envelope
• (if you can find it).

• Because we are switching from a bi-monthly
• newsletter to a quarterly one (see page 8), we have
• decided to announce the results as of December
• 31st 2011. Twenty five members and twelve friends
• contributed the grand total of \$4,153.

• We wish to recognize the following members and
• friends who responded so generously:

Members

- Rosemary Bacy Josie Philip
- Darlene Ceremelo Douris Reed
- Marilyn Hayward Juliet Rothman
- Inge Horton Eunice Rosenberg
- Margaret Lerian Judith Sahagen
- Jonee Levy Ellen Shaffer
- Margaret Lew Marcia Soffer
- Jane Morrison Susan Sunderland
- Chana Orner Jane Swinerton
- Helene Peckerman

Friends

- Edith Arrick Virginia Leishman
- Natalie Berg Mauree Perry
- Betty Blumlein Jean Rabovsky
- Charlotte Ferguson Bonnie Scialanga
- Margo George Sandra Sohcot
- Andrew Grimstad Carol Yaggy

Special thanks to those who contributed over \$100:

- Shirley Costello
- Melanie Grossman
- Amy Hittner
- Lorraine Honig
- Nan McGuire
- Kathie Piccagli

An Update on OWL California

As planned, OWL-CA has closed its office. The organization will continue in a scaled-back status, mostly using email to communicate between chapters. The new email address is info@owlca.org.

—Kathie Piccagli

Political Advocacy •

Supervisors Hearing on CPMC

On December 13th, the SF Supervisors had a hearing on California Pacific Medical Center (CPMC), which plans to consolidate its SF facilities into a mega-hospital at Van Ness and Geary. OWL and many other community, labor, and patient advocates have serious concerns about 1) long-term viability of St. Luke's Hospital for medically-underserved, poor, and largely minority South East San Francisco, 2) affordability of care for low-income uninsured and Medi-Cal recipients, 3) gentrification and loss of affordable housing, particularly in the adjoining Tenderloin, 4) rights of RNs to remain in the California Nurses Association, 5) loss of long-term care and psychiatric care.

Opposition groups at the hearing, including the Good Neighbor Coalition, Jobs with Justice, the Calif. Nurses Association, and the Coalition for Health Planning renewed their demand that a Community Benefits Agreement, a legally binding agreement between CPMC and affected unions and community groups, address the above issues and be part of Mayor Ed Lee's development agreement with CPMC. CPMC has been unwilling to meet Ed Lee's modest money requests, let alone a Community Development Agreement.

The hearing went late into the evening, but to one OWL observer it appeared that Sups. Compos, Mirkarimi, and Avalos did have serious questions about the current status, but they said they do want the right sort of deal with the right sort of protections. To our observer, the Supervisors' talk of "ironclad agreements" sounded disturbingly like the talk in 2005 when CPMC's parent, Sutter Health, took over St. Luke's and then tried to close it shortly after the expiration of a 5-year agreement to keep it open. As another seasoned observer said, "The City's negotiating with CPMC the way the Democrats negotiate with the Republicans."

OWL has a better idea, which it submitted as a position paper to the hearing. As explained in our September Newsletter, "OWL recommends that city actions to approve CPMC applications be delayed until 2013 when the Healthcare Master Plan is available to guide official decisions. The master plan requires the Dept. of Public Health to conduct an assessment of healthcare need and to develop a "determination of consistency" to advise the Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors on land use related to health care facilities." This would be one way to make sure that health care resources are equally distributed around the city and that access to health care is available to all San Franciscans.

—*Michael Lyon*

Standing Room Only! OWL's November Program On The Occupy Movement

For Owl's membership meeting on November 19, it was standing room only in Room 1185 at the Flood Building. In addition to OWL members, there were over ten guests, some of whom stood in the hall or along the side of the room. A strong contingent from the Always on Saturdays Group was present (they have since changed their name to Always Occupy). They formed in October to show their support of Occupy by showing up on Saturdays to march alongside the occupiers.

Deirdre Anglin, media outreach person for the Occupy SF movement, was our speaker. She was to have been accompanied by Ryan, who had been up three nights in a row waiting for the



Photo by Sheila Malkind

police to raid their camp and he had run out of steam. You may remember that the mayor and the police called off that raid when over 1000 SF citizens came down to the encampment to support the occupiers.

Deirdre spoke about the different sections of the encampment: a library, a medical center where health volunteers offered their services, a kitchen for accepting donations from the public of prepared food and from merchants of canned and baked goods, a welcome desk to greet visitors and provide information about the movement. Most of the occupiers were living in tents, either donated or their own. They tried to keep the paths separating different sections clean, but sometimes it didn't look that way.

She also spoke of the GA, which was a general assembly where once a day folks came together in a circle led by an individual who would read out the various goals and rules of the movement. All decisions were made through consensus, which if you've ever tried this form of decision making, it is not easy.

I have heard many individuals criticize the movement for not having any specific objectives and no leadership structure. As Deirdre explained it, this was purposeful. They were a grass roots organization and did not want "top down" leadership. In this way, the movement remained organic, growing out of the people and not out of any one person's vision. They were also criticized for having so many of the homeless around. As one street merchant observed to me "the homeless have occupied the occupiers".

Standing Room only... cont.

So what if anything has the movement accomplished? First and foremost they have focused the country's attention on the very deep economic insecurity and inequity that exists in our country. They rightly faulted the banks and Wall Street for their role in creating this situation and the government for not doing anything about it. I must say for me they broke into my daily funk about what was happening in the country and helped those of us more fortunate than the bottom of the 99% to pay attention and try to do something. They also highlighted the problems within the shipping industry by closing down the port of Oakland and others up and down the West Coast to call attention to the unfair labor practices in that industry.

And what's happening now that the encampments have been dismantled? In SF Occupy holds meetings on Tuesday and Thursday evenings on the Embarcadero. They are working with some of the SF residents affected by the foreclosure crisis. They reenter buildings and fix them up for the foreclosed and the occupiers to live in. I am told they have been arrested but they go back after and continue to work on the rehabilitation. There are several among them who have carpenter and construction skills.

I for one hope the movement survives, and that more of us figure out what we can do to achieve the goals of the Occupy Movement, and then go out and do it. There is a group that has formed that calls itself the 99% Coalition. It is comprised of representatives of many walks of life like: Universalist Unitarians, Voters for Peace, labor unions, teacher unions just to name a few. They meet every Monday night at 6 pm at the Unitarian church to report progress that various committees have made. Their meetings are open to the public and you might want to drop in sometime. For more information contact Dolores Priem at Doloresmp@aol.com. Mention that I suggested you call.

—*Nan McGuire*

**Spaghetti Dinner for the 99%
San Francisco 99% Coalition
Fund-raising Dinner & Program**

Thursday, January 12, 6pm to 9pm
Unitarian Universalist Center
1187 Franklin Street, corner Geary Blvd

Author Rebecca Solnit & activist David Solnit will speak about hope, strategy and actions to build a better world; music and poetry of Occupy! Raffle!
Donation \$20.00 • Students and Seniors: \$10.00

For reservations RSVP to sf99percent@gmail.com or call 415-608-1585 or send check made out to Unitarian Universalists for Peace-SF 1187 Franklin Street, San Francisco 94109

Reproductive Justice Banners Fly In San Francisco

For the first time in San Francisco's history, banners advocating reproductive rights and justice are flying on Market Street. The display was organized by the Silver Ribbon Campaign to Trust Women, a coalition of 42 national and local organizations that aims to build the momentum and solidarity of the pro-choice majority.



During 2011, Congress and state legislatures proposed or enacted an unprecedented number of attacks on women's reproductive health care services, including birth control as well as abortion, while slashing basic health services.

When the House of Representatives votes that it is okay for doctors to allow pregnant women to die in the emergency room rather than perform an abortion, its time for women to wake up and fight back, said Sophia Yen, M.D., a co-founder of the Silver Ribbon Campaign. As a mother and a pediatrician who specializes in adolescent medicine, I want to insure that my patients and my own daughters continue to enjoy the right to plan their families and pursue their career goals. For women, that means protecting and expanding reproductive rights."

Ellen R. Shaffer, Ph.D., co-director of the Silver Ribbon Campaign said, "Many women are angry that our health is being used as a political football, in attempts to divert attention away from the troubled economy as we enter an election year. We need the government to fix the economy and to fund vital basic health services, that are especially critical for low-income women, and to quit interfering with our private decisions about our reproductive health."

The main banner slogans are: Her Decision, Her Choice • U.S. Out of My Uterus • Fix the Economy, Support My Autonomy • Reproductive Rights are Human Rights • San Francisco is Pro-Choice

The 70 banners will fly for several weeks through January, 2012. Local and national events are planned throughout the U.S. around the anniversary of the Roe v. Wade decision on Jan. 22, celebrating Trust Women Week. We hope these themes will provoke important discussions and help mobilize our communities. Tell your friends! And Support Us! Visit the Our Silver Ribbon web site: <http://oursilverribbon.org/donate.php>

— *Ellen Shaffer*

OWLS Dance at December Holiday Party and Membership Meeting

OWLs gathered with friends and guests on December 17th to celebrate the holidays and vote in three new members to the OWL SF board. A delicious selection of dishes — everything from salads to cake was arrayed on the tables and wrapped gifts and poinsettias added to the holiday décor.



Photo by Sheila Malkind

Festivities began with a brief business meeting to allow members the opportunity to add candidates for the OWL board to the roll selected by the nominating committee. New board members, Mary Anderton, Robin Brasso and Eunice Rosenberg, selected by the nominating committee, were elected by acclaim. Melanie Grossman, Glenda Hope, Nan Mcguire and Margaret Lew were surprised with gifts and applause in recognition of their service and inspiration over the past year.

Over lunch members and guests socialized, talked politics, discussed recently read books and activities. Capping off the party was a lively demonstration of line dancing by three gracious guests from a local group where OWLs Melanie Grossman and Margaret Lerian have been dancing and it did not take long to get a big group of OWLs out on the floor stepping right along enthusiastically to the beat.

—*Margaret Lew*



Photo by Sheila Malkind

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

**Eileen Hansen
Barbara Nielsen
Regina Sneed**

January Planning Meeting

The annual planning meeting will be held on Saturday, January 28, 2012 from 10:00am to 2:30pm at the Unitarian Universalist Church, 1187 Franklin Street (at Geary), Fireside Room. This important meeting will help set the priorities for OWL San Francisco for the coming year. We will be determining the types of programs, activities, and political advocacy issues which are of most interest to the entire membership. This meeting will also be used to better define and strengthen the committee structure and generally brainstorm how folks can be more active in OWL San Francisco.

All members are urged to actively participate. Come with unique ideas. We need your input! Please RSVP to the OWL office (989-4422) in order to ensure there is lunch for everyone.

Discussion topics for the day:

Goal – What do we want to accomplish during the planning meeting? While the primary goal is to set priorities, what else do the participants wish to accomplish.

Programs – The 2011 programs, and the attendance levels at each program, will be reviewed as a base line for the coming year. We will then brainstorm what programs are of most interest to you in the coming year. Your input is essential to keeping OWL relevant to you.

Committees – each of the current committees will be reviewed including the accomplishments for 2011 and preliminary priorities for 2012. The chairperson will provide a committee report. Discussion will focus on the priorities for each committee and interest by members in joining a committee. Any changes needed to committees will also be discussed.

Peer groups – while peer groups have been very successful to date, they are currently undergoing some changes. Current status of peer groups will be reviewed and an open discussion of how to make them as successful as possible.

Please plan on attending. We want your company and your good ideas!

—*Judi Sahagen*

New Member Alert

OWL monthly membership meetings are usually held on the fourth Saturday of the month. Postcards announcing the meeting are sent each month in which the newsletter is not published.

OWL PEER GROUP UPDATE

In 2011, OWL's two peer groups, Central and Northeast groups, considered joining together into one larger, city-wide group. Heading into 2012, the two groups decided not to merge, and Eunice Rosenberg will be heading up the Central peer group. Look for more news from the Central group as they reorganize and take on a new format.

The Northeast group will continue to meet on the 3rd Monday of the month, 3 to 5. Participants, individually or in pairs, take responsibility for one activity or outing per year, leaving time for socializing and a "check in" after each event. Activities in 2011 included tea tasting in China Town, viewing the Diego Rivera mural at the City Club, a ferry ride and lunch in Sausalito, and a tour of SF City Hall.

The Northeast peer group will gather to plan activities and outings for the coming year on Monday, January 16th 3 to 5 pm at Melanie Grossman's house, 33 Grenard Terrace (off Greenwich, between Van Ness & Polk).

Anyone interested should come to the meeting to discuss ideas for activities in 2012. All OWL members are welcome to join in! RSVP: melaniegrossman@sbcglobal.net or 415-923-0850.

—*Melanie Grossman*

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Spring Cleaning? Remember The Community Thrift Store

Thank you to all who made donations in 2011 to The Community Thrift Store on Valencia between 17th and 18th Streets. As stated in prior newsletters, CTS gives OWL 40% of the selling price of items that you donate.

To deliver your unwanted items go south on Mission Street, look for Sycamore Alley on the right after 17th Street. Turn right on Sycamore and go to the loading dock near the end. You can park and a person on duty will help you unload. Community Thrift is open seven days a week.

—*Nan McGuire*

Health Literacy

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services defines health literacy as "the capacity to obtain, process, and understand basic health information and services needed to make appropriate health decisions."

Having had some recent health problems, and contemplating the various options for remediation, or possibly even surgery, I have learned a little more about my behavior during my office visit with my doctor. As a result, I would like to offer one piece of advice that can optimize the visit, so that hopefully, we will make the right decisions for the best possible health outcomes.

Because I think that I am listening carefully to the physician's diagnosis and recommendations, I have rarely written down what she is saying — especially when I am in the cute little gown, without a pencil or paper at hand. Yes, I suppose you can bring a friend, but this is a personal transaction between my medical expert and me.

After my exam, while still in the physician's office, I will request a copy of the doctor's notes either by email or fax, or sometimes it is printed out right then and there for me. If not available from the office, sometime later I will go to the hospital's record office for a copy, or request a copy by mail after completing and faxing the office's permission questionnaire.

I have seen that often I forgot an important piece of information or advice that the doctor offered, and get greater insight about my condition and my body. And occasionally, the physician writes down some small, but incorrect information about me. (I once had a female physician who did a careless and rather brutal gynecological examination. When reading her notes, she had written: 'patient resists pelvic examination').

Of course, the internet is helpful in offering additional health information. For example: the Mayo Clinic recommends the following basic questions you can ask your doctor at your visit. Of course, during the examination, the doctor will most likely be covering these topics.

- What is the most likely cause of my symptoms?
- Are there any other possible causes?
- Do I need any tests to confirm the diagnosis?
- What are the goals of treatment in my case?
- What treatment approach do you recommend?
- Am I at risk of complications from this condition?
- What is the risk that this problem will recur in the future?
- Do I need to follow any restrictions?
- Are there any self-care steps I can take?
- Should I see a specialist?

—*Sheila Malkind*

The Woman Behind the New Deal

Here is a book well worth reading. Don't be dismayed by the nearly 400 pages as it is well written, interesting, and very readable.

The Woman Behind the New Deal by Kirsten Downey tells the story of Frances Perkins, who brought us many things we take for granted today including Social Security. Historians have credited Franklin D. Roosevelt with these advances — once again giving a man credit for creations wrought by a woman.

Perkins was named Secretary of Labor, the first woman to hold a Cabinet post in our country. She was, of course, ridiculed, demeaned and attacked for her gender in an effort to discredit her policies. Enemies liked to call her “Ma Perkins”. There was even an effort to impeach her, only the second Cabinet officer in US history to suffer that trial, the other one was found guilty of “high crimes and misdemeanors” and was removed from office. Perkins’ case never came to a vote on the floor of Congress!

Much of the social, economic, and political milieu in which she worked sounds like our own times including anti-union, anti-immigrant (undesirable aliens), anti-Communist (read Muslims) and anti-woman sentiments and speeches. And, of course, the Great Depression both here and abroad. In addition, Perkins was caring for her husband who had severe manic/depressive mental illness, while striving to give her beloved daughter “every advantage” only to end up caring for her, as well, in her mental illness. She fought early-on for mine safety and for labor unions, never wavering in her advocacy for these.

Kirsten Downey, the author, reflects “The secret of Frances’ success was that she had done what she did selflessly, without hope of personal gain or public recognition, for those who would come after. “ Factory and office occupancy codes, fire escapes and other fire prevention mechanisms are her legacy, ...Social Security...unemployment checks, workers’ compensation, minimum wage, ...8 hour work day.. Very few know the name of the woman responsible for their benefits.

She told Felix Frankfurter, as she stepped down from office: “I came to work for God, FDR, and the millions of forgotten, plain, common working people. The last conversation...I had with FDR was of such a nature that I could say with the Psalmist, My cup runneth over and surely goodness and mercy shall follow me.”

Read this inspiring book about one of our valiant foremothers!

—*Glenda Hope*

Occupella Sings Out A Message

Want to support the 99%? Like to sing? Raise your voice with Occupella.

At the OWL Holiday Party, new OWL member Regina Sneed introduced us to Occupella, a way to support the Occupy movement in song. Occupella meets informally at Bay Area occupation sites, marches and at BART stations, singing to promote peace, justice, and an end to corporate domination, especially in support of the Occupy movement. Everyone is welcome “if you can talk you can sing”; there is an online songbook of singable parodies, traditional and original songs. Learn more at their web page: <http://www.occupella.org/index.html>.

In San Francisco, meet to sing at BART: Tuesday, Jan 10 and Jan 24 12th Street BART Station, 4:45 to around 6:00. Tuesday, Jan 17 and Jan 31 at Montgomery BART Station, 4:45 to around 6:00 Meet in the middle, near the newsstand.

—*Margaret Lew*

Communications News

Beginning with this issue your OWL SF Newsletter will appear quarterly instead of bi-monthly in both printed and e-mail formats. Late-breaking announcements of importance and action alerts will continue to be sent via e-mail to all of you. Postcards or telephone calls will continue to be used to remind you of upcoming membership meetings.

Between issues of the Newsletter please make a point of visiting our OWL SF Web Pages at www.owlsf.org to see Action Alerts, the current Calendar and Newsletters. It is our goal to add features and improvements to the web pages during 2012. I want thank Arlene Silverman for her work making updates on the OWL SF Web Pages during the past year.

In addition, a big thank you to Lily Subias, Beverly Rockabrand and other wonderful volunteers for collating, labeling, stamping and mailing out the hard copies of your Newsletters. Their contributions are priceless. If any OWL would like to join us in these activities in the following months, come to the January Planning Meeting or contact the OWL SF Offices.

—*Margaret Lew*

Facts to Consider

America is at a critical crossroads. While OWL acknowledges the need to address the long-term deficit, we believe cuts to Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid would be disastrous to millions of Americans who are already struggling with dwindling retirement savings and rising healthcare costs.

From the start of the recovery through May 2011, women lost 218,000 jobs, while men gained 768,000 jobs. By age 45, women have earned \$122,000 less than their male counterparts, and by age 65, it more than doubles to \$379,000.

Source: recent OWL National e-mail appeal.

During 2010, more than 8.3 million people from 55-74 lived in households with incomes of no more than \$20,000 a year, representing roughly 15 percent of that cohort, according to Andrew Sum, director of the Center for Labor Market Studies and an economics professor at Boston's Northeastern University.

Source: New America Media, January 2, 2012

<http://newamericamedia.org/2012/01/jobs-program-for-older-americans-struggles.php>

All Women's Issues Were Not Resolved In 1920

All Women Activists Are Not Wild-Eyed Radicals

Women's Health Care Is Not Adequately Covered

Women's Economic Security Is Not Based On The
Charity Of Men

Everything You Need To Know About "The System"
Was Not Taught In School

Agesong and OLLI Present: Intergenerational Forum Youngsters and Oldsters Changing the World Together

January 27th 2012
4:00–6:00pm

Agesong San Francisco
624 Laguna Street
\$3 at the door
\$2 advance
RSVP@agesong.com

Adults are not listening? Planet not going the way it makes sense? All about power and money? Join forces with those who have the motivation to make the changes we need!

Save the Date International Women's Day Summit and Awards Luncheon

Presented by
Global Arts and Education
and
Women's Intercultural Network

Awards Luncheon
March 8, 12:30pm to 2:00pm

Women's Summit
Friday March 9, 8:00am to 6:00pm

West Bay Community Conference Center
1290 Fillmore Street at Eddy
San Francisco

Additional information to come, check the website:
<http://www.iwdsummit.com/>

Calendar

For a complete and up to date listing see the OWL website: www.owlsf.org (click Calendar)

January 2 Monday — **OWL Board Meeting**, 870 Market (*check OWL office for room*), 4:00-6:00pm

January 16 Monday — **Northeast Quadrant Peer Group Meeting**, 3:00pm (*see page 7 for details*)

January 28 Saturday — **OWL General Meeting, Planning for 2012** Unitarian Universalist Church, Fireside room, Franklin at Geary, 10am-2:30pm (*see cover page and article on page 6 for details, RSVP*)

February 6 Monday — **OWL Board Meeting**, 870 Market (*check OWL office for room*), 4:00-6:00pm

February 25 Saturday — **OWL General Meeting**, (*Postcard announcement will be mailed*)

March 5 Monday — **OWL Board Meeting**, 870 Market (*check OWL office for room*), 4:00-6:00pm

March 24 Saturday — **OWL General Meeting**, (*Postcard announcement will be mailed*)

YES! I WANT TO JOIN OWL!

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

City State ZIP

TELEPHONE: _____

E-MAIL: _____

Annual dues of \$50 are recommended: When you pay dues to the San Francisco Chapter, you automatically become a member at all levels –National, California and San Francisco. (If you are unable to pay the recommended amount, OWL has established a sliding fee scale from \$50 –\$5.) Members receive SF OWL quarterly, OWL CA quarterly and National OWL Observer quarterly newsletters.

Make a check out to and mail to:
OWL, SF Chapter
870 Market Street, Room 905
San Francisco, CA 94102

OWL
San Francisco Chapter
870 Market Street, #905
San Francisco, CA 94102

The Founding of OWL

OWL was born in 1980 in Des Moines, Iowa, during one of the pre-conferences held around the county in preparation for the third White House Conference on Aging, which was held in 1981 in Washington, DC. At the pre-conference in Des Moines, TISH SOMMERS noted that little attention was being paid to the ways in which aging was different for women. She called for a special “ad hoc” meeting to discuss this concern. OWL has been a voice for the special concerns of midlife and older women ever since.

Comments or questions? Please contact the SF OWL Office at (415) 989-4422; FAX: (415) 989-4050; e-mail: owlsanfran@juno.com
Office hours: Monday 12:00 noon to 2:30 p.m.

The date on your mailing label is the date your membership expires.