



*Web Site:* <http://www.owlssf.org>

*July - August 2011*

*Email:* [owlsanfran@juno.com](mailto: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 our ANNUAL SUMMER POTLUCK PARTY

Date: Saturday, July 23rd

Time: 12 Noon to 3 pm

Place: Mattie Alpertons home

312 North Willard Street

San Francisco

RSVP Necessary!

Bring a dish to share with 6

A great opportunity to connect with old friends and make new ones while sharing delicious food and good conversation. Bring a dish for six people and a drink for yourself. OWL will provide coffee. Space is limited, please RSVP to the OWL office: 415-989-4422 or e-mail [owlsanfran@juno.com](mailto:owlsanfran@juno.com) as soon as possible.

Willard Street is located between Arguello and Stanyan Blvds. at Fulton St.  
Nearby Muni lines: 5, 31, 33 and 38

**Older Women's League \* 870 Market Street, #905, San Francisco, Ca. 94102**  
**Phone 415-989-4422 \* Web site: [www.owlssf.org](http://www.owlssf.org)**

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It's back to Social Security for this column. Before this I have talked about why the program works, its financial situation, and why this self-supporting program is so valuable particularly to retirees, and even more particularly, to women. I feel like we all know how it works, why it works, and how it can and must continue to be an invaluable support, both for retiring workers and families.

We should be talking about ways to improve Social Security; instead we are talking about threats to its continuation. Many conservatives have wanted to eliminate or privatize Social Security since its inception. Direct frontal attacks have been repelled, mostly because this successful program is so popular.

What is more worrisome now are the more subtle threats: raising the retirement age; changing the Cost of Living (COLA) increase to a chained Consumer Price Index (chained-CPI); using means-testing; and reducing the FICA tax that supports Social Security. Most cynical is the idea that many of these cuts would not affect current beneficiaries, but rather, future generations!

Raising the retirement age will reduce the benefits paid to the average retiree by 15% or more. Changing to a chained-CPI will gradually reduce benefits. (Congressman Becerra estimates eventually a loss of \$1400 annually to the average Social Security recipient.) Means testing will change the very nature of the program from an insurance program to a welfare program.

The one that scares me most is eliminating the taxes that support Social Security. Last year, quietly, there was a temporary 2% holiday on the employee's tax contribution to the Social Security fund. Many of us worried at the time that this might not easily be reinstated, and already I understand that President Obama would consider extending this through 2012. In this morning's New York Times, there was a business op-ed urging a larger "tax holiday" as a way to increase employment. Undermining the foundation of a program will lead inevitably to its collapse.

The point of this column is to suggest that we must remain vigilant. We need to continue to educate and advocate for the program, but we also need to be constantly alert for subtle (even devious) attacks. Do not allow defeat by confusion or obfuscation. We owe it to ourselves and, even more, we owe it to future generations.

—*Kathie Piccagli*



### Rideshare anyone?

We know that some OWL members would like to attend our monthly programs but do not want to drive or use MUNI to attend. We wonder if you would participate in our very own RIDESHARE program where a few OWL members would provide transportation to members in their neighborhood to attend our programs. Please call the office or email if you are interested.

—*Amy Hittner*

**Kathie Piccagli, President**  
Maxine Anderson  
Melanie Grossman  
Amy Hittner  
Glenda Hope  
Jonee Levy  
Margaret Lew

**Nan McGuire**  
**Sheila Malkind**  
**Juliet Rothman**  
**Ruth Strassner**  
**Allyson Washburn**

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](mailto:owlsanfran@juno.com)  
**Web:** [www.owlsf.org](http://www.owlsf.org)  
**Mail:** 870 Market St., Room 905,  
San Francisco, CA 94102

## **An Update on OWL-California**

Most of the June 11-12 meeting in Oakland consisted of a discussion of OWL-CA's fiscal situation and its future.

First of all, a little background: OWL-CA operates as a chapter under OWL National in a capacity similar to all local chapters, such as OWL SF. Its purpose has been to further the OWL agenda on a state level and to coordinate the work of OWL chapters and members throughout the state. No state other than California has had a State level OWL organization, but it made sense here because: 1) we had volunteers to staff efforts and to do much educating, advocating, and even lobbying in Sacramento; and 2) there were quite a few chapters and members in California.

Now we don't have that volunteer womanpower, and the number of chapters in the state has dwindled to five or six. Particularly the latter has put the State organization, dependent on dues contributions, in a precarious situation.

It is not clear that OWL-CA can or should continue functioning either at all or in its current form. There will be a one-day follow-up meeting in September to discuss the organization's future.

If OWL-CA disbands, our chapter will relate directly to OWL National. We will need to align more directly with organizations such as CARA to stay involved with state legislative activities.

Stay tuned!

—*Kathie Piccagli*

### **WELCOME NEW MEMBERS**

**Joan Downey  
Carroll Estes  
Margaret Lorian  
Mary A. McGuire-Hickey  
Marianne Petroni  
Lois Scott  
Suzanne Smith  
Ruth Vose**

## **Juliet Rothman joins Owl SF Board**

Juliet Rothman was recently welcomed to the OWL SF Board. She is a social worker and has practiced in the field of aging for over 25 years before joining academia. She taught in the School of Social Work at Catholic University and currently teaches in Social Welfare at the University of California, Berkeley. In the field of aging, she teaches Practice, Law and Ethics, and Disability. She is especially interested in intergenerational issues and in community involvement of elders. Juliet is from the East Coast and has lived in San Francisco on Russian Hill for 13 years. She is married, with two daughters and eight grandchildren. She lost a son 19 years ago. Her interests are wide and varied and she writes: "I love to write, and have written textbooks, trade books, articles, and poetry. I also enjoy travel, art and music, photography, and people, and am also currently pursuing a degree at Graduate Theological Union with an interest in spirituality and mysticism, seeking to connect these studies to my PhD in Philosophy. I'm a docent and team leader at California Academy of Science. I love all the wonderful and interesting women I have met at OWL and look forward to serving on the Board."

## **OWL Joins Single Payer Now Rally at AHIP Convention**

The US health insurance companies convened at Moscone Center in San Francisco, June 15-17. The morning of June 16<sup>th</sup>, there was a large rally outside the convention calling for "Medicare for All." The initial impetus and organizing for the rally came from Single Payer Now but many organizations, including OWL-SF, co-sponsored. OWL member Glenda Hope contributed time and talent to the organizing effort and was joined on the picket line by Nan McGuire. Together they secured a prominent place at the corner of 4th and Howard Streets, holding up the OWL-SF banner for all to see. Glenda also spoke briefly including reading a statement by Congresswoman Lynn Woolsey in support of the single payer health insurance movement. Woolsey introduced the Public Option Deficit Reduction Act in Congress to "bring down the cost of coverage by providing competition to private insurers and ultimately save the Federal government \$68 billion over 7 years". It would be good if OWL-SF members contacted Pelosi, Boxer and Feinstein, urging them to support this legislation.

—*Glenda Hope*

## **The Need to Preserve Social Security**

There was a crowd of 80 at the April 30<sup>th</sup> OWL monthly meeting to hear words of wisdom about Social Security by Barbara Kennelly, the retiring president and CEO of the National Committee to Protect Social Security and Medicare. Ms. Kennelly's introductory remarks were followed by an interview and discussion conducted by Catherine Dodd, who, among many other things, is on the board of NCPSSM and an OWL member. After the interview there were many questions from the audience, which included a diversity of San Franciscans, men and women, from many different organizations. OWL was joined in sponsoring the program by the San Francisco Commission on the Status of Women, and co-sponsors: the San Francisco Women's Political Committee, the San Francisco League of Women Voters, California Alliance of Retired Americans, Senior Action Network, and the San Francisco Gray Panthers.

Ms. Kennelly and Ms. Dodd reached an enthusiastic and curious audience which included people with a wide range of knowledge about Social Security. Ms. Kennelly communicated her vast knowledge of the program, adding the perspective of her long-time history as a legislator in the House of Representatives and at the same time injected a little humor. Catherine Dodd emphasized how the program affects women – especially interesting to the sponsors – the facts that Social Security program is more used by women, and that women are more dependent on it. Both speakers had lots of facts and helped provide focus.

In response to an audience question on how to engage most effectively in the battle to preserve Social Security and Medicare, Ms. Kennelly responded "Blogs". Many of us do not use blogs routinely in our internet use; methinks we had better start to do so.

Happily, a number of the morning's audience members have joined OWL and will surely add to our emphasis on Social Security. Locally, our focus on Social Security has included visits, letters, and calls to Senators Feinstein and Boxer and Representatives Pelosi and Speier; teach-ins; media presentations including articles and radio interviews; and participation in programs with other groups, such as CARA, SAN, and the Gray Panthers. All this supplements the actions of OWL National which continues to have very visible and substantial education and advocacy around Social Security.

—*Kathie Piccagli and Nan McGuire*

Visit the Web page for the National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare:

<http://www.ncpssm.org/>

## **Political Advocacy Committee May Meeting Report**

The Political Advocacy Committee met on May 26<sup>th</sup> with a very full agenda. On national issues, Social Security and Health Care were the main focus. Committee members voted to contact Barbara Boxer's office to express support for the Social Security Protection Act of 2011, a bill co-sponsored by Boxer, that will require a 2/3 vote in the House and Senate to reduce Social Security benefits, effectively getting Social Security "off the chopping block."

On health care, committee member Glenda Hope was continuing to work as a co-organizer for a Single Payer rally on June 16<sup>th</sup> at Moscone Center where America's Health Insurance Plans (AHIP) were meeting. Nan McGuire and Glenda attended the rally and held the OWL banner in support of a single payer health care system.

On the state level, the committee voted to write letters to our state representatives, acquainting them with the OWL agenda and requesting a list of appearances in the Bay area so that OWL members can get to know them on issues affecting women, families and the elderly.

Locally, the committee plans to organize a September membership meeting on City and State ballot initiatives. Other local issues include attending the June California Pacific Medical Center Planning Committee hearing at City Hall; joining the "save Muni" coalition; and sending a letter outlining salient issues relating to transportation and older women to the SF Transportation Plan Community Advisory Board, supporting a letter already sent by a committee member. Finally, the committee discussed the demolition of rent controlled apartments at Parkmerced. The committee agreed to sign on to a letter of protest to be sent to the Supervisors which has been written by Grey Panthers and Senior Action Network.

One last order of business was to reinstate monthly meeting of the PA Committee. Previously, the committee met every two months, handling advocacy issues between meetings by email or by phone. Because of the increasing number of topics taken up by the committee, members voted to reinstate monthly meetings. The next meeting is scheduled for June 23 at the Flood Building, room 1185. New members to assist with the above advocacy work are always welcome!

—*Melanie Grossman*

## **OWL Opposes MEDICAID Cuts, A Letter to our Legislators**

The drastic cuts and threatened cuts to Medicaid prompted the OWL Board to send the following letter to Senators Boxer and Feinstein, as well as Congresswomen Speier and Pelosi.

*Dear Senator Boxer (Feinstein, Congresswoman Pelosi, Speier)*

*We are increasingly alarmed over the efforts to cut back the Medicaid program. Many of the recipients of Medicaid are not likely to be able to defend the program----disabled, poor, the old, and the young. It is also a program that disproportionately affects women; two-thirds of the adults who receive Medicaid are women.*

*In California, specifically, women comprise most of the elderly who receive Medicaid (Medical). This includes a variety of long-term care services not covered by Medicare, including nursing home care. Women are also the majority of disabled who receive services.*

*Women also comprise most of the non-elderly adult recipients of Medicaid. Medicaid pays for a variety of preventive services such as mammograms and pap smears, as well as family planning services. It supports prenatal care, deliveries, and post-partum care for 60 days.*

*Children will, of course, be devastated by the cutbacks. This affects not only the children themselves but also their families, We read that many children eliminated from the rolls in cutbacks will not receive other health insurance. Even now payment rates are so low, children have difficulty getting medical appointments.*

*We look to you as a defender of both women and the less fortunate, and we ask you to actively oppose the severe cuts to Medicaid that seem to be looming. We count on you not only to vote against cuts to Medicaid but to influence others who seek to devastate this program. We must continue to be a society that takes care of its young, its old, and its vulnerable, and we ask for your help.*

*Sincerely,  
Kathie Piccagli  
President, OWL, San Francisco Chapter*



## **Mid Year Appeal in Your Mailbox**

Because the dues that you donate every year are split between our chapter (\$15), OWL-CA (\$10) and National OWL (\$25), we must rely on your generosity and that of our non member supporters to keep the chapter in the black. Our mid year appeal letter was mailed June 17th and I am pleased to report that the first week's response has been very encouraging. If you have not had a chance to reply, there is still plenty of time.

As you may know, we have no paid staff and we are fortunate to have some long-time, steady, volunteers who handle various aspects of the office operation. We owe a special thanks to Beverly Rockabrand, Lily Subias, Esther Wong and Bernice Lawrence for their reliable service. We do, however have other expenses including office and meeting space, printing costs, technology costs, contract costs, etc. Our share of membership dues does not come close to covering our expenses; we depend on contributions from the Mid and End of Year Appeal to meet most of our expenses.

—**Kathie Piccagli**

### **Save the Date: August 27th OWL Membership Meeting Traveling on Your Own**

The topic for our August membership meeting will be Traveling on Your Own. Take a journey with our very own globe-trekking members, looking at the ups and downs of going it single.

Presenting the program will be OWL members Lillian Markinson and Josie Philips. Josie will show her travel slides. Further details of the program will be announced on the OWL SF web page and in a postcard mailing to members in early August.

## Leda Sanford Writes for *Grand* First Digital Magazine for Grandparents

Leda Sanford has been invited to be a regular columnist for *Grand* magazine, the first national digital magazine dedicated to promoting a positive image of grandparenting. *Grand* is a beautifully designed and illustrated four color publication that presents itself as a traditional magazine, with pages that can be turned online. It is a new experience but very much the way of the future. It is aimed at delivering a resource for grandparents of all ages, but especially boomer grandparents.

You can see the magazine by going to <http://tinyurl.com/currentissue> or <http://www.grandmagazine.com> and you may sign up there for a free, introductory subscription.

Leda is known as a pioneer in the '70's advance of women in the magazine business and for her innovative approach to magazines. She came to California to lead Age Wave Communications in the development of new, untraditional formats for the mature women's market. It was there that she created *Get Up & GO!* The mini 12 page magazine for single, fifty-plus women who were living anew. Her collection of essays from this publication was published in 2005 and is entitled *Look for the Moon in the Morning*. It is available through Amazon or directly from her own web site. (<http://www.ledasanford.com>) Her latest book is a memoir entitled *Pure Moxie* and recounts her dramatic life as she broke the glass ceiling and achieved personal fulfillment culminating with her experience with grand parenting. The book web site is (<http://www.puremoxiebook.com>)

If you have any questions please contact Owl member Leda Sanford, [Ledasanford2@aol.com](mailto:Ledasanford2@aol.com)

### Why not a gift membership in OWL San Francisco!

Annual dues of \$50 are recommended. For those unable to pay the recommended amount OWL has established a sliding scale for annual dues from \$50 to \$5.

Just send your check for dues to:  
OWL SF,  
870 Market St., Room 905, San Francisco, CA 94102

Include your friend's name, address and (if you have them) phone number and email address. OWL will send her a welcoming letter and a brochure!

## It's Never too Late... for Spring Cleaning!

Gather up those items you no longer need or use and take them to the Community Thrift Store at 625 Valencia Street between 17th and 18th Streets in the Mission. OWL SF will receive a check for 30 to 40% of the proceeds from your donation. We were pleased to receive a check for \$196 this May as a result of your donations to the store. Thank you so much for taking the time to recycle your usable castoffs this way.

There are some items they can't take: linens, pillows, blankets, children's toys and clothing, and clothes hangers.

If you are driving, you can unload without having to park by following these directions: going south on Mission street, look for Sycamore Alley on your right after 17th Street. Take a right down Sycamore and see a loading dock almost at the end. You can temporarily park and offload to the person on duty. They are open seven days a week.

If you don't drive and a friend or relative is unable to help, we will try to find a volunteer to pick up your items at your home. Call Nan McGuire at 673-7074 to work something out. Unfortunately, we can't provide help with the cleaning!

—Nan McGuire

### Help Needed: Bookkeeper for OWL-SF

We have recently lost the services of another volunteer who has prepared our monthly financial reports, our membership records and our quarterly reports to OWL-CA and OWL National. If you have experience with Quick Books and Excel and would like to help fill this void, please contact Kathie Piccagli at (415) 585-3950.

### PensionDialog Get the Facts About Public Pensions

Found: a new-fact filled blog site on public pensions. In California about 4% of the state budget relates to pensions; pensions are not a major contributor to the state deficit. If you sometimes need a fact or two to support your defense of your pension – go to Pensiondialog.com, a website that deals with the issue nationally <http://www.pensiondialog.com/>

## PEER GROUPS

### North East Quadrant Reviews Change in Meeting Format

In January, our peer group decided to shift our format from a monthly meeting at someone's home or apartment to an activity program planned each month by a different member of the group. We proceeded with this format for February through May with a June meeting scheduled to assess the success of this new format.

Our first activity was a visit to Chinatown to observe where and how Chinese fortune cookies are made and to visit a tea house to be entertained and educated by the proprietor about the various kinds of Chinese teas and how they should be prepared. Next we visited the San Francisco City Club to see the Diego Rivera mural where we were enlightened by a tour guide. A third outing involved attending the film at the San Francisco Film Festival and the fourth was a visit to the Labyrinth at Grace Cathedral. After walking the Labyrinth, we repaired to the Huntington Hotel for high tea and some delicious cookies. Comparing each other's experiences of walking the Labyrinth was quite informative.

Our assessment in June was positive and we have decided to continue our outing format

We usually meet on the third Monday of the month from 4 to 6 pm. For anyone wanting to join us in contact either Nan McGuire, [nanmc@jimstevens.com](mailto:nanmc@jimstevens.com), or Jonee Levy [jonee.levy@gmail.com](mailto:jonee.levy@gmail.com).

### Central Peer Group:

The Central Peer Group has been meeting on the 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month. MOVIE and a MEAL has been our most frequent outing and lately we have seen some great films followed by a snack at a nearby restaurant along with discussion of the film and socializing. *Barney's Version* and *Another Year* are two recent favorites. An e-mail notice is sent out a week in advance (not sooner because theatres will not commit to a showing.) Suggestions are welcome!! If you are not on the PEER e-mail list and would like to join us, For further information contact Marcia Soffer at 661-8019. [mksoffer@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mksoffer@sbcglobal.net) Any other OWL members and their friends are always welcome to join our outings.

***See you at the movies!!***

***—Marcia Soffer***

### Join Our Visit to Kokoro Senior Community

Kokoro Senior community in Japantown provides assisted living senior housing in a landmark building. Originally a synagogue, later a buddhist temple, the abandoned building was acquired by a non-profit group from the San Francisco Redevelopment Agency and converted to housing. On Monday, August 22<sup>nd</sup> OWL's North East Quadrant Peer Group will gather for a tour to see the community created by the reuse of this historical building. Following the visit, the group will enjoy an early dinner in a Japantown restaurant.

The Kokoro community buildings are similar to the proposed project using the vacant Methodist Church at Larkin and Clay for Nob Hill Senior Housing. SF OWL joins other community groups in support of the Nob Hill project which allows seniors to stay in their familiar city neighborhoods.

When: Monday August 22, 2011, 3:00pm

Where: Kokoro Senior Community, Bush and Laguna Streets

RSVP: Please rsvp by e-mail to Linda Chapman, [licwa@yahoo.com](mailto:licwa@yahoo.com)

#### Friends of Phyl Smith

For those of you who knew Phyl Smith when she was an active member of Owl, she has a new residence and phone contact. After suffering a stroke last fall, she eventually moved to Seattle where her son resides. She would love to hear from you if you have a minute to call or drop a line.

Foss Village, Cottage F  
154 N. 130th St.  
Seattle WA. 98133  
(206) 417-3107

To Phone Phyl directly: dial the CapTel number first, 1-877-243-2823 then enter Phyl's number at the prompt followed by pound sign, 206-417-3107#

## In My Opinion . . . Learning About Hate #2

*You've got to be taught  
To hate and fear  
You've got to be taught  
From year to year  
It's got to be drummed  
In your dear little ear  
You've got to be carefully taught*  
From the musical *South Pacific*, 1949

It is happening now again—openly, thinly veiled. . . Seems to me that the grandchildren of the Klansmen have reemerged as the “Tea Party”. They look at those who are violent, live on welfare, uneducated, in prison or felons, drug addicts who are mostly African American and Latino, seeing them continue to leach the system. And they use man-made “crack” cocaine rather than “organic” cocaine. They are in this position because they don’t want to become “responsible members of society”.

There is certainly evidence of growing issues of violence and parental neglect in the poorest segments of society, which is a serious state of affairs. For over forty years I have worked in schools serving some of the neediest families in New York City and Northern California, in K-12 as a teacher and counselor for children from very poor and welfare families. As a Professor in the Department of Counseling at San Francisco State University I taught graduate students to become school and family counselors and directed two service related federal grants. SAFE START was a 4-year program that focused on teaching violence prevention techniques to Early Childhood Education teachers. Results showed that teachers who used these techniques with pre-school children taught them how to show anger with words, not fists. HEALTHPATH was 6-year program that worked with economically disadvantaged high school and college students who wanted to work in health care professions. And as a member of the Board of Directors of Allies United for Children, I continue to serve those who need positive school and community experiences. It is my way to give back.

—*Amy Hittner*

## Real Estate News and Green Living From Pavement to Parks

I am always surprised to find how quickly the city changes when I am out and about San Francisco neighborhoods showing property, or running a personal errand. Recently in North Beach I noticed parking spaces had been replaced with café tables and thought: Hmmm that is interesting. Parking spaces being perhaps more valuable than gold and the city being in need of money, I wondered if the nearby restaurants hadn’t leased parking spaces to extend their café table space.

Today walking down Polk Street I passed a similar situation in front of a café at Polk and Washington. The tables and chairs were wet from the rain and with no one seated in the area I looked a bit closer to find a sign identifying the area as a Public Parklet. What a quaint and wonderful new addition to San Francisco city living.

Oh, I did not mention there is NO SMOKING in Public Parklets. You have got to love it when the city gets it right! San Francisco is rated as the 3rd most densely populated city in the United States. As the population continues to grow in years to come, these small Parklets offer a bit of community open space where people walking in commercial area can take a break without going into a café or restaurant.

Click here <http://sf-planning.org/index.aspx> to read about the history of Parklets and plans for the future. Parklets are in a trial stage—temporary and designed to be moved, or changed if they don’t work out in their current locations. Barely two weeks after I wrote this blog I walked by the Polk Street Parklet to find the trees gone. The shop owners felt the trees were too tall and are replacing them with flowers. One thing we know about San Franciscans, they have an opinion on everything. If you would like to suggest a new Parklet location or share your thoughts with the city, email [sfpavementtoparks@sfgov.org](mailto:sfpavementtoparks@sfgov.org)

Bravo San Francisco! This is a GREAT idea!

—*Carole Isaacs*

*Sales Associate  
McGuire Real Estate  
DRE 01714833  
cell (415)608-1267 anytime*

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

## **June Membership Meeting, Organizing Your Documents: Does Your Family Know Where Your Stuff Is?**

A large group of OWL members and their friends gathered at the Mechanics' Institute on June 25th to hear about organizing their lives for the future. Julie Jones, opened the discussion by presenting her Estate Documents Organizer. Although the program's title "Organizing your Documents: Does Your Family Know Where Your Stuff Is?" seemed to focus on organizing our lives to ease the way for our heirs, in fact the program of organization proposed by Jones would benefit us now and for many years before that inevitable event. Loss of a wallet containing credit cards, driver's license and other documents can cause a day's worth or more of trouble if we are not prepared. Having a backup of information at hand can make recreating that wallet's contents so much easier. The system created by Julie Jones goes further than many published books on organization, featuring an exhaustive itemization of documents and information needed to organize your life story and a large binder to file them in. Provisions are also made for the things that should be kept in a safety deposit box, including a backup copy of one's computer files! The basic categories of records identified include: Digital Assets, your online life – passwords, electronic records for income and expenses; Family and Pets – record information on loves ones; House and Property; Investments; Legal Documents; Medical – records and directives; Vehicles. Visit her website to learn more and perhaps to order a copy of the Estate Documents Organizer itself to start organizing your life for yourself and your family.

Amy Hittner presented a short talk on the importance of preparing your Advance Directive, part living will and part durable power of attorney for health care. She distributed Compassion & Choices Magazine, Special Resource Issue which explains the basics in planning for emergency treatment and end of life care before one is unable to make or communicate the crucial decisions. Though difficult to face for

many, "preparations for the worst free you to relish the best" as the Magazine's introduction says. Finally, Rev. Glenda Hope shared thoughts on funeral and memorial celebrations from her special point of view as a Presbyterian minister. These ceremonies are for the living and we must respect the feelings of those we leave behind and allow them to remember us in a way that helps them to adjust to their loss.

—Margaret Lew

Visit these web pages for more information:  
Julie Jone's Estate Documents Organizer  
<http://www.estimatedocsorganizer.com>  
Compassion & Choices  
<http://www.compassionandchoices.org>

## **Action Alert — AB1130 Restore Fairness and Sanity to California's Permanent Revenue Stream**

California's richest 5% received a \$20 billion windfall when the federal tax cuts were extended last December. Assemblywoman Nancy Skinner has authored AB 1130 which would raise taxes by 1% on income over \$500,000. Polls separately conducted by the Public Policy Institute of California and the California Federation of Teachers show Californians strongly support this approach to raising revenues. AB 1130 would raise \$2.5 billion and be an important first step in restoring fairness and sanity to California's permanent revenue stream.

The California Federation of Teachers asked Governor Brown to include this idea in his tax package. So far he hasn't said yes. California needs an increase in permanent revenues. It's time to ask more of those who can afford to make a larger investment in California. Together we can put California back on a sound fiscal footing.

Jerry Brown needs to hear from us. Please tell Governor Brown Californians WANT a fair tax increase. <<http://www.fixcanow.com/index.php/join/26/>>

## **Calendar**

For a complete and current listing see the OWL website: [www.owlsf.org](http://www.owlsf.org) (click Calendar)

July 11 Monday — **OWL Board Meeting**, 870 Market (*check OWL office for room*), 4:00-6:00pm

July 23 Saturday — **OWL General Meeting**, Annual Summer Potluck Party, Noon-3:00pm, RSVP to Owl Office (*see cover page for location and program details*)

August 1 Monday — **OWL Board Meeting**, 870 Market (*check OWL office for room*), 4:00-6:00pm

August 27 Saturday — **OWL General Meeting**, 10:00am-Noon, 870 Market 10:00am-Noon  
(*see page 5 for details*)

YES! I WANT TO JOIN OWL!

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
City State ZIP

TELEPHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

Annual dues of \$50 are recommended: half this amount goes to OWL-National, \$10 goes to OWL-CA, and \$15 are retained by the chapter. 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 bimonthly, 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](mailto:owlsanfran@juno.com)  
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The date on your mailing label is the date your membership expires.