



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

July - September 2017

Email: owlsf@owlsf.org

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



Summer of Love Garden Party

Wear 60's Clothes or Something Bright and Festive
Bring: A Dish - Appetizer, Salad, Main Dish or Dessert,
60's Music, Your Favorite 60's Story or Memory

Come Together To Celebrate Love And Friendship!

When: Saturday, July 22, 2017, 11 AM to 1 PM

Where: Ellis Street Family Apartments

555 Ellis Street (between Hyde & Leavenworth)

Van Ness Muni 47 3 block walk, Geary Muni 38 1 block walk,

Civic Center Bart 5 block walk

Wheelchair Accessible

OWL SF * 870 Market Street, #905, San Francisco, Ca. 94102

Phone 415-712-1695 * Web site: www.owlsf.org

Owl SF Honored by San Francisco Commission on the Status of Women

On May 17th, OWL Board members Joan Downey, Sy Russell, Maxine Anderson and Glenda Hope proudly accepted an award on behalf of all OWL members.

A copy of the award is on page 3 of this issue. Because this was given during Elder Abuse Awareness Month, Glenda noted that OWL SF does address elder abuse in its many forms. We present informative programs and materials helping us recognize individual mental/emotional/physical/financial elder abuse and support those who are suffering from it and want to change their life situation. We also know that elder abuse is embedded in unjust policies of our societal systems and we challenge those in many ways.



She went on to note that many OWL members were social justice activists in the 1960's and '70's and have continued working for racial equality, women's rights, world peace, programs for the poorest people among us, to name a few. By means of our monthly programs, our informative newsletter, by phone calls and emails, our members are kept current on actions we can take so that even our homebound members are able to be social justice activists.

OWL SF combats systemic elder abuse by working on issues such as strengthening Social Security/Medicare/Medicaid, single payer health, environmental protection, immigration, racial equality, gender equality, women's health, end of life care, pedestrian safety, improved public transit, and more. We are major supporters of the Disclose Act (currently AB 14) to take the dark money out of political campaigns. Glenda noted that we enjoy working for social justice and have fun doing it together.

Congratulations to all former and present members of OWL SF for the work you do and the positive, encouraging example you set.

WELCOME NEW MEMBER!

Mary Gayle Thomas

"I would rather burn out than rust out."

From Glenda Hope, a favorite quote, tho she doesn't know who first said it.

Board Members
Maxine Anderson
Joan Downey, Treasurer
Melanie Grossman
Amy Hittner
Glenda Hope, President
Margaret Lew
Sheila Malkind
Nan McGuire
Sy Russell
Betty Traynor, Secretary

Newsletter
Margaret Lew, Editor

Membership
Nan McGuire

Political Advocacy Committee
Glenda Hope
Melanie Grossman
Co-Chairwomen

OWL SF Board meetings: first Monday of the month, 4:00-6:00 pm, 870 Market St.
Phone: (415) 712-1695
Email: owlsf@owlsf.org
Web: www.owlsf.org
Mail: 870 Market St., Room 905, San Francisco, CA 94102

CARA Update

Social Security Is Under Threat!

Our grandparents won Social Security 82 years ago. Let's protect it for our grandkids! Defend Social Security! Save the Day! August 14 is Social Security's 82nd birthday. Join us to celebrate Social Security and re-dedicate ourselves to preserve, improve, and expand Social Security. CARA, the California Alliance for Retired Americans wants to share the following facts about Social Security's importance to Americans as it celebrates its 82nd birthday.

- **Social Security is the nation's largest and most successful anti-poverty program**, keeping tens of millions out of poverty: seniors, people with disabilities, bereaved families, women and minorities. No bailouts or missed payments for over 75 years.
- **Social Security is an earned benefit** that we and employers pay for from every paycheck, for our whole working lives. It's our money!
- **Social Security's Trust Fund has at least \$2.5 trillion surplus** invested in US Treasury Bonds, considered the safest possible investment. It is not broke!
- **Social Security's Trust Fund is US Treasury Bonds.** They are loans from Social Security to the US Treasury. They are not worthless IOUs! What is worthless are the corporate-driven politicians who pissed away the US Treasury General Fund on wars, bank bailouts, and tax cuts to the rich, and now they say there's no money to pay Social Security back. Those loans must be paid back!
- **We will need Social Security even more in the future**, as the population ages, pensions disappear, and as strapped workers can't save money for retirement.
- **Social Security should be improved:** increase the benefits, increase the cost-of-living-allowance (COLA), and especially, abolish the Social Security Payroll Tax exemption for incomes above \$127,000. Scrap the cap, make the millionaires pay!
- **To sum up, as things stand now, Social Security is there for you when you retire, become disabled, or your spouse dies.**
- **But we will need to fight to keep it**, because corporate America and its politicians from both parties want to destroy today's Social Security: raise the retirement age, decrease the benefits, and convert Social Security to private, individual stock market accounts (gambling with our future), and keep Social Security's money.
- **Join us to help preserve, improve, and expand Social Security!** We stopped Bush's plan to substitute Wall-Street-managed individual accounts in 2005. We stopped Obama's plan to cut the COLA in 2013. Remember, Social Security was fought for, and won, by pumped-up workers in the height of the 1930s Depression. Today we have the RESIST movement. We can do this!

California Alliance for Retired Americans, 510-663-4086, 600 Grand Ave, Rm 410, Oakland CA, 94610,
californiaalliance.org

Save the Date
Social Security Is Under Threat!
Rally Monday, August 14 to Defend It!

Our grandparents won Social Security 82 years ago.
Let's protect it for our grandkids!
Defend Social Security! Save the Day!
August 14 is Social Security's 82nd birthday. Join us to
celebrate Social Security and re-dedicate ourselves to
preserve, improve, and expand Social Security.

Monday, August 14, Noon
Frank Ogawa Plaza in Oakland
Broadway and 14th St,
at the 12th Street BART Station
Rally and Two-Block March to Federal Building

**San Francisco Commission on the Status of Women
Resolution Recognizing the Older Women's League**

BE IT KNOWN That the Commission on the Status of Women of the City and County of San Francisco hereby issues and authorized the execution by subscribing Commissioners, of the following commendation:

WHEREAS, The Older Women's League of San Francisco Chapter was founded in 1981, and it continues to operate as an independent organization, addressing the critical issues facing women as they age; and, OWL has created a strong and effective network dedicated to improving the quality of life for midlife and older women, through education, research, and advocacy within the organization and with like-minded groups, locally, state-wide, and nationally; and,

WHEREAS, The priorities of the organization are financial security, quality of life, health care, and how to survive and thrive in San Francisco; and OWL is involved with efforts to preserve Social Security, advocate for single payer health care system locally and nationally, develop programs to improve employment opportunities for older women, and work on issues in the City affecting aging women, such as housing, transportation, safety and health and nutrition;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED That the San Francisco Commission on the Status of Women, on the occasion of the 2017 Elder Abuse Awareness Month, recognizes the Older Women's League of San Francisco, and commends its advocacy around the intersection of women's issues an aging issues for midlife and older women of San Francisco.

Andrea Shorter, President Deborah Mesloh, Vice President Marjan Philhour

Olga A. Ryerson Carrie Schwab-Pomerantz Julie D. Soo Breanna Zwart

**San Francisco Commission on the Status of Women
May 17, 2017**



Enough Already

Many Americans are frustrated, bewildered even, by the presidency of Donald Trump. Some of us have joined local groups, but many of us don't know where to start. The titles below run the gamut from practical starters to in-depth involvement.

What We Do Now: Standing up for your values in Trump's America. Ed. Dennis Johnson and Valerie Merians. A collection of important essays by contributors including Dave Eggers, Paul Krugman, Robert Reich, and Bernie Sanders.

No Is Not Enough: Resisting Trump's shock politics and winning the world we need, by Naomi Klein. Well, Klein presents a large order—and it's definitely not for the faint-hearted. From the *Guardian*: "Naomi Klein has written...a warning of the enormous toxic potential of the Donald Trump presidency and a call to oppose it...Klein wants her readers to move from refusal to resistance, from a passive stance of opposition to engagement in a program of action." Whew.

On Tyranny: Twenty lessons from the 20th century, by Timothy Snyder. 128 pages. From the *Washington Post*: "Easily the most compelling volume among the early resistance literature. . . A slim book that fits alongside your pocket Constitution and feels only slightly less vital. . ." Clarifying and unnerving.

Indivisible Guide: A practical guide for resisting the Trump agenda. Includes suggestions on how best to contact your Congressional representative, how to start a local group, and much more.

And just in case you haven't read it:

It Can't Happen Here, by Sinclair Lewis. A work of fiction written years ago that cuts close to the bone today.
—Arlene Silverman

The Indivisible Guide

Former Congressional Staffers Reveal The Best Methods for Making Congress Listen

Indivisible promotes using the methods of the Tea Party to give progressives and liberals a way to advocate for the welfare of Americans. *Indivisible: a practical guide for resisting the Trump agenda*, outlining these methods can be found at their web site: <https://indivisibleguide.com>. The guide can be downloaded or read online. Here are some highlights.

Chapter 1 How grassroots advocacy worked to stop President Obama. We examine lessons from the Tea Party's rise and recommend two key strategic components:

- A local strategy targeting individual Members of Congress (MoCs).
- A defensive approach purely focused on stopping Trump from implementing an agenda built on racism, authoritarianism, and corruption.

Chapter 2 How your MoC thinks – reelection, reelection, reelection – and how to use that to save democracy. MoCs want their constituents to think well of them, and they want good, local press. They hate surprises, wasted time, and most of all, bad press that makes them look weak, unlikable, and vulnerable. You will use these interests to make them listen and act.

Chapter 3 Identify or organize your local group. Is there an existing local group or network you can join? Or do you need to start your own? We suggest steps to mobilize your fellow constituents locally and start organizing for action.

Chapter 4 Four local advocacy tactics that actually work. Most of you have three MoCs – two Senators and one Representative. Whether you like it or not, they are your voices in Washington. Your job is to make sure they are, in fact, speaking for you. We've identified four key opportunity areas that just a handful of local constituents can use to great effect. Always record encounters on video, prepare questions ahead of time, coordinate with your group, and report back to local media.

Town halls. MoCs regularly hold public in-district events to show that they are listening to constituents. Make them listen to you, and report out when they don't.

Other local public events. MoCs love cutting ribbons and kissing babies back home. Don't let them get photo-ops without questions about racism, authoritarianism, and corruption.

District office visits. Every MoC has one or several district offices. Go there. Demand a meeting with the MoC. Report to the world if they refuse to listen.

Coordinated calls. Calls are a light lift, but can have an impact. Organize your local group to barrage your MoCs with calls at an opportune moment about and on a specific issue.

Visit the Indivisible web site to read the guide, see updates on resistance resources, articles from the press around the country, and posts of interest to resisters on the Indivisiblog.

—Margaret Lew



OWL SF's May Membership Meeting: Reverend Deborah Lee engages the members in her well-received presentation on Immigration.

Photo by Joan Downey

The Cat

My mother used
To write
About putting out
The cat at night.

She on one coast
And I on the other,
I pictured a Siamese
With my old mother.

Because I knew
That she lived down the hall
From Rhoda and Rhonda
And a woman they called Doll,

I wondered how those
Cats were all right,
If Rhoda and the others
Put their cats out at night.

“No problem,” my mother
Wrote in her next letter.
This was way before e-mail,
And Instagram and Twitter.

But I pictured Persians
And toms with no breeding
And tailless and earless
At a raucous nightly meeting

In the halls of my mother’s place
Scratching and yowling
Fighting over litter boxes
And hissing and meowing.

One day I phoned my mother
And said, “But you don’t have a cat.”
“Not a real cat,” she said.
“Do you think I am daft?”

“I hang this paper cat on my doorknob
Before I go to bed
And take it off in the morning,”
My mother said.

“If someone sees the cat
Still out the next day
They’ll check to be sure
That I’m okay.”

Now that I’m my mother’s age,
I have an alarm thing around my wrist,
A button to push to call the police,
And cameras in case I’m missed.

But I wish I had a cardboard cat
To put out every night,
So when it’s gone in the morning hours,
Someone will know that I’m all right.

Arlene Silverman

What Are You Reading?

It looks like a hot summer this year, maybe an escape would be pleasant, if only in a book. Here are some I have read that take a reader to other places and other times.

Naples, colorful, hot and dangerous: Maurizio de Giovanni’s police stories *The Bastards of Pizzofalcone* with sequel *Darkness for the Bastards of Pizzofalcone*. The cops transferred to investigative branch of the Pizzofalcone precinct were misfits in their previous stations...can they keep this precinct from being shut down by the commissioner? Yes, so far they succeed!

Germany pre WWI: *A Legacy* by Sybille Bedford, the Jewish Merzes are longstanding members of Berlin’s haut bourgeoisie, the Feldens are landed aristocracy, well off but not rich, from Germany’s Catholic south. After Julius von Felden marries Melanie Merz the fortunes of their two families are strangely, indeed fatally, entwined. *A Legacy* is captivating, magnificently funny, and profound, an unforgettable image of a doomed way of life.

USA, 1950’s: *The Price of Salt* by Patricia Highsmith, (basis of 2015 film *Carol*) A chance encounter of two unhappy women turns to love; the road to love is never a smooth one and there are surprises around every turn. The library’s summary: “erotic, eloquent, and suspenseful, this story offers an honest look at the necessity of being true to one’s nature”

Amsterdam, 17th Century: *The Miniaturist*, Jessie Burton, A bride finds that life with her new husband is strangely predicted by the contents of a dollhouse that resembles her new home. The miniaturist who creates the furnishings and figures holds the key to the family’s future... salvation or destruction.

The Outer Hebrides: *Coffin Road* by Peter May. A tale of mystery and suspense that includes murder, science, sailing, and the life of bees, set in the beauty and danger of the rugged Outer Hebrides Islands.

—Margaret Lew

Cleaning Out Closets, Redecorating or Downsizing?



Take your items to the
Community Thrift store
623 Valencia Street
(on the corner of Valencia and
Sycamore, near 17th street.) (415)861-4910

Access the loading dock from Mission onto Sycamore between 17th and 18th. Tell them: ***These are for the Older Women’s League of San Francisco.*** OWL SF receives 40% of anything that sells! *You* receive credits for a tax-deductible donation!

Save the Date — 7th Annual Legacy Film Festival on Aging September 15th, 16th, 17th

The 7th Annual Legacy Film Festival on Aging will be presented Friday-Sunday, September 15-17, at the New People Cinema, 1746 Post St, in San Francisco's Japantown.

We are the only 3-day film festival offering films from around the world that portray the complex richness of later life. We persevere in our original mission: to educate, entertain, and inspire intergenerational audiences about the issues of aging in order to provide a better understanding and appreciation of older adults and the aging process.

The 2017 films are artistic and yet authentic depictions of individuals who provide a role model to others: those people who have adapted to life's changes with creativity and courage. They are a testament to our humanness.

If you have attended one or more of the previous LFFOA's you will recognize familiar themes: Caring; Generations; Memory. New themes: Life and Death; Making a Difference; Stay or Move; Heroes/Heroines.

Sincerely,
Sheila Malkind
Executive Director
Legacy Film Festival on Aging
www.legacyfilmfestivalonaging.org
info@legacyfilmfestivalonaging.org



Scenes from Australian film: *Mother, Child*.
Filmmaker Tin Pang.

OWL SF has a new telephone number:
(415) 712 - 1695

Like OWL SF on Facebook!
<https://facebook.com/OWLSF/>

Calendar

For a complete and up to date listing see the OWL website: <http://www.owlsf.org/calendar.php>

July 10 Monday — OWL Board Meeting, 4:00-6:00pm (Flood Bldg. Room 665)

July 22 Saturday — OWL Garden Party, 11:00-1:00pm (Ellis Street Family Apartments, 555 Ellis Street)
see cover for details.

August 7 Monday — OWL Board Meeting, 4:00-6:00pm (Flood Bldg. Room 665)

August 14 Monday — CARA Rally to Defend Social Security, Noon-?
(Frank Ogawa Plaza, 14th & Broadway, Oakland, CA) See p.2 for details.

September 4 Monday — OWL Board Meeting, 4:00-6:00pm (Flood Bldg. Room 665)

September 15-17 Friday-Sunday — Legacy Film Festival on Aging (See above for details)

September 23 Saturday — OWL General Meeting, (San Francisco Main Library)
program details to be announced

YES! I WANT TO JOIN OWL SF!

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY STATE ZIP

TELEPHONE: _____

E-MAIL: _____

Annual dues of \$50 are recommended. (If you are unable to pay the recommended amount, OWL has established a sliding fee scale from \$50 –\$5.) Members receive the quarterly OWL SF Newsletter.

OWL SF will not share or sell any information about our members.

Make a check out to and mail to:

OWL SF
870 Market Street, Room 905
San Francisco, CA 94102

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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) 712-1695;
e-mail: owlsf@owlsf.org