



# NEWSLETTER



AFT president, Randi Weingarten, and NEA president, Becky Pringle, joined forces at the Democratic National Convention (DNC) to urge support for Kamala Harris and Tim Walz for President and Vice-President.

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# UPCOMING MEETINGS

The Retired Division of UESF will hold its first Membership Meeting of this school year on September 19th and have invited the political directors of CFT and CTA to present options and opportunities for individuals to become involved in political action this year.

The October Membership Meeting will have a presentation from the Health Services Board. The HSB has already voted to change from UHC to California Blue Shield as a provider for next year.



**PLANNED MEMBERSHIP MEETING DATES**

SEPT <b>19</b>	OCT <b>17</b>	JAN <b>23</b>	MAR <b>20</b>	MAY <b>15</b>
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**10:00AM - 1:30PM**

Scottish Rite Memorial Temple  
2850 19TH AVE SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94132

*There is street parking and some parking under the building.*



**[CLICK HERE TO RSVP FOR SEPT. 19TH MEETING & LUNCH](#)**

# AFT VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES



AFT will be hosting 2-week deployments to battleground states. They are asking for volunteers who can go to a high-priority battleground state such as Arizona, Michigan, Nevada, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin. Assignments will be based on the highest priority at that time, and you should expect to do work every day of your deployment phoning and canvassing voters. You, any other AFT members, and retirees can sign up to volunteer for a 2-week deployment [here](#).

In what sounds like a very interesting and fun idea, AFT is trying out a new program this year called "Adopt a District," where members and retirees can sign up to be on a team, assigned to a specific battleground district from now to Election Day. Volunteers will be briefed on polling, demographics, and other critical information about that particular district. They will engage in regular voter contact such as phoning, texting, and writing postcards. You can sign up to "Adopt a District" [here](#).

There will also be a postcard-writing program (sign up [here](#)) and regular phone banks to battleground states and districts, which you can sign up [here](#).

Retirees who have not yet signed up for [AFTerburners](#) are encouraged to do so to be included in retiree-specific outreach efforts.



# CTA 2024-25 VIRTUAL RETIREMENT WORKSHOPS

You're never too young or old to learn about your CalSTRS benefits, programs, and services. There will be materials and discussion of the CalSTRS retirement benefit formula, options, Defined Benefit Supplemental program, survivor benefits, legislative changes, and Social Security Offsets.

**Topics Include:**

- STRS - Overview of The System and How It Works
- Social Security - Effects on CalSTRS Members

**Time:** All workshops are from 4:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

**Space:** Registration is limited to 400 participants for each workshop. If you get a message that the workshop is full, please select a different date.

**2024**

- Tuesday, September 3, 2024
- Thursday, September 5, 2024
- Thursday, October 3, 2024
- Tuesday, November 5, 2024
- Thursday, November 7, 2024
- Tuesday, December 3, 2024
- Thursday, December 5, 2024

**CalPERS Members Only**

Wednesday, October 9, 2024

**2025**

- Tuesday, January 14, 2025
- Thursday, January 16, 2025
- Tuesday, February 18, 2025
- Thursday, February 20, 2025
- Tuesday, March 4, 2025
- Thursday, March 6, 2025
- Thursday, April 3, 2025



**CLICK TO REGISTER [HERE](#)**



# PROJECT 2025 AND UNIONS

Project 2025 is the 920-page document by Donald Trump and his allies that spells out what they plan to do during a Trump second term.

The AFL-CIO broke it down for you: How would this agenda affect union members and working families?

## **Project 2025 includes proposals to:**

- **Make it easier for employers to get rid of workers' unions in the middle of our contracts.**
- **Ban all public employee unions.**
- **Allow states to ban labor unions, eliminate overtime protections, and choose not to follow the national minimum wage.**
- **Even eliminate the child labor rules that protect children from working in mines, meatpacking plants, and other dangerous workplaces.**

Find out more on the [AFL-CIO's Project 2025 & Unions](https://www.afl-cio.org/project-2025).

# ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

**Submitted by: Lisa Gutierrez-Guzman**



Did you know that the Retired Division of United Educators of San Francisco was started before UESF existed? The Retired Division was formed last century as a part of the San Francisco Federation of Teachers before the merger with the San Francisco Classroom Teachers Association in 1989.

Several retirees agreed to follow the lead of our colleagues at City College and interview some of our members to find out what was their role in making United Educators of San Francisco the strong union that it has become.

**Retired instructor and former head of the Labor and Community Studies Department at CCSF, Bill Shields, and retired CCSF instructor, Guy DePrimo, will be teaching a five-week course through CCSF Extension on how to do interviews of our colleagues via Zoom.** The Retired Division has committed to pay for enrollment and fees out of the UESF Retired Division budget, as approved by the membership at a meeting last year.

We have already met with Bill and Guy a couple of times to help us write a rough draft of our timeline, which includes the start of AFT, NEA, CFT, and CTA and of course, UESF. We have already made a very long list of potential interviewees who we will contact to set up interviews, which will start after the course has ended. **The course is on Zoom and takes place from 9/10 to 10/8, two hours each time (4:00-6:00).** Not a Zoom expert? Don't worry! Mr. DePrimo will get our interviewers all set up on how to use Zoom efficiently.

We may need your help interviewing some of our friends who might have been involved in the union when you first joined UESF and who remain friendly people who will undoubtedly help us establish our history for posterity. Are you interested in history? Do you support the right for teacher unions to organize? Would you be interested in hearing other people's stories and how UESF evolved? Would you be willing to be interviewed by one of the interviewers in the Oral History Project? Please consider joining us. Our little committee of about 8-10 retirees couldn't possibly interview the 60 or so people we have on our potential interviewee list.

We will get you started. Watch out! It'll be educational **and** a lot of fun going down Memory Lane.

**If interested, please contact Ken Tray, Dennis Kelly, or Lisa Gutierrez Guzman by calling the UESF Office at 415-956-8373 and leaving a message for us.**



# WEP/GPO PROGRESS

**Submitted by: Ken Tray**

*Time to Discharge HR82 and Move Toward WEP-GPO Repeal and Social Security Fairness!*

Many of us are aware and concerned about WEP/GPO and its attack on our retirement security. The sad story is that in 15 states teachers and in 26 states teachers and other civil servants that earned a public pension will face a significant reduction in their Social Security benefits.

The good news is that 325 members of the House of Reps Co-Sponsor HR82 - the Social Security Fairness Act that along with Senate Bill SB57 will provide full Social Security benefits earned by educators and other public servants. But, even with that strong majority the trick is to get it out of the Ways and Means Committee and on to the floor of the House of Reps. That's why there is a full court press by labor and our allies to use a discharge petition to force HR82 out of committee and put it to a vote before the entire House.

And guess what? Our own **Nancy Pelosi still fails to Co-Sponsor HR82**, not because she doesn't support the idea, but because she continues to stand on her former role as Speaker of the House to not Co-Sponsor legislation.

We have to convince her to step down from "ceremony" and do the right thing for folks in the classroom, walking the beat and nursing us to good health. Pelosi's support will help push HR82 out of committee.

**Please send the following letter (ASAP!) to Congresswoman Pelosi:**

**Title: Time to file discharge petition for H.R. 82.**

**Dear Representative \_\_\_\_\_,**

**Please join your colleagues and request that a discharge petition be filed for bipartisan bill H.R. 82 (companion bill S. 597), which has 323 cosponsors. We have been working for years for this opportunity! Congress has shown support for fixing this problem. Please show yours by requesting movement on this issue.**

**A discharge petition is not just a legislative measure but also a powerful statement that Congress will protect those who have tirelessly worked in public service. Thank you for supporting retired public servants across this country!**

**(Make sure your name and address are on this request.)**

**Send letters to this address:  
1236 Longworth H.O.B.  
Washington, DC 20515**

**Find your congressional  
representative and send an  
email using THIS PAGE.**



# SAN FRANCISCO EMPLOYEES HEALTH SERVICE BOARD UPDATE

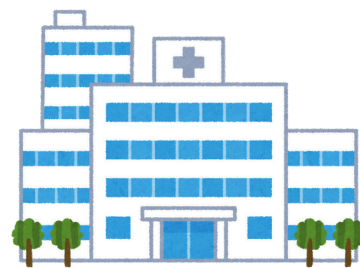
**Submitted by: Rudi Faltus**

The San Francisco Health Service Board (HSB) at their August 8th meeting approved a plan to transition retirees who are currently members of the United Healthcare (UHC) PPO to the Blue Shield of California (BSC) PPO for 2025. UHC Members will be notified first by letter and then by personal phone calls of the change. Members have been assured that the transition will be smooth and easy; the level of care provided by BSC will be the same as that provided by UHC. BSC staff and HSS staff have reviewed past meetings, letters, phone calls and are aware of concerns raised throughout the recent change process. BSC has staff dedicated to HSS members from 8 am to 8 pm, 363 days a year (not including Thanksgiving and Christmas), to handle members' concerns. BSC staff will also be available in the HSS lobby for in person support. BSC has a first contact resolution process – one call to 1-800-370-8852 and one transfer to resolve any problem. Informational meetings will also be scheduled in September and October.

This unilateral change was not negotiated with UESF or any other employee organization and is the decision of the Health Services Board.

Members are encouraged to check with their doctors, other medical providers and pharmacies now to prepare for the transition. BSC and HSS maintain that UHC and BSC networks are very similar. Lawyers contacted about the change from UHC to BSC have advised that organizations assist members in documenting any issues that cause harm, as the BSC contract with HSS can be changed at renewal in a year.

**Abby Yant, Executive Director of the HSS and other staff, will be joining UESF- Retired Division at our October 17th Membership Meeting to present an overview of the HSS.**





## BOOK GROUP KEEPS READING!



The long-standing UESF-Retiree Book Group meets at **Squat and Gobble Café**, located at 1 West Portal Avenue, on the **4th Friday of each month**.

We meet in the **2nd floor dining area** and you may place your lunch order downstairs. Our discussion **begins at 1 pm and lasts about 1 to 1 1/2 hour**.

For the upcoming September discussion, *Prophet Song* by Paul Lynch will be the title.

We keep a list of books for future discussions and plan for two months ahead. Choices are made by consensus: usually **a fiction novel and at least one “meaty” classic over the holiday break period in December**.

The group has met over many years, but **new participants are welcome to join!**

The ongoing list for future picks are:

- ***Crow Mary*** by Kathleen Grissom (not in paperback, but lots of copies available in the library).
- ***Perfectly Nice Neighbors, Kia Abdullah***
- ***King of the Armadillos*** by Wendy Chin Tanner (not in paperback but lots of available copies in the library).
- ***Tomorrow, Tomorrow and Tomorrow*** by Gabrielle Zevin (not yet in paper, except for large print).
- ***Demon of Unrest*** by Erick Larson (new title, hardcover only).
- ***Exit West*** by Mohsin Hamid
- ***The Committed*** by Viet Thanh Nguyen

For more information, contact Alexia Tindol at (415) 333-4045 or Anna Bolla at [acbolla@sbcglobal.net](mailto:acbolla@sbcglobal.net)

## THEATER OFFERING



**Description:** Kimberly Akimbo revolves around the life of Kimberly Lavaco, a teenager who suffers from a rare condition. Knowing she will not live much beyond 16, she wants to experience everything she imagines the world has to offer. The Tony Award-winning musical captures audiences with a simple yet heart-wrenching tale of a young girl with a rare aging condition.

Rear  
Orchestra -  
\$30

Side Center  
Orchestra -  
\$88

Front Center  
Mezzanine -  
\$88

To order tickets, click [HERE](#) and download the form. Complete the form and mail it along with your check payable to:

**Sandra Shure, at 324 Frederick St, San Francisco 94117.**

**All checks must be received no later than Monday, Sept. 23, 2024.**

For more information, please call Sandy at 415-664-1133.

# NATURE WALKS

Submitted by: Lou Webb



*Crissy Field*



*Mountain Lake Park*



*Baker Beach*

Nature walks will once again hit the trails! We will explore natural environments in the City as well as further afield. We have planned a walk through Crissy Field, as well as a hike from Mountain Lake Park to Baker Beach, paying attention to the changing flora along the way. We will return to some earlier walks, such as Devil’s Slide and Bothin Marsh Preserve in Marin County.

Look at this space for signups and more information.

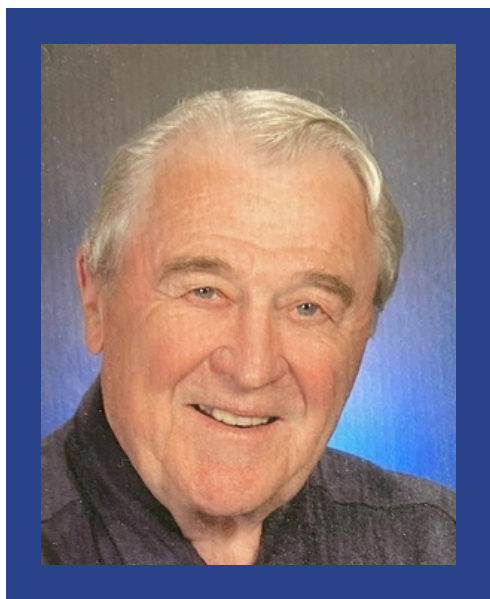


*Devil's Slide*



*Bothin Marsh Preserve*

## IN MEMORIAM



*Gerald DeRyan  
(1932 - 2024)*

Jerry was well known and respected as a teacher. He spent his lifetime helping others. He was a former president of the San Francisco Classroom Teachers Association, prior to its merger with the San Francisco Federation of Teachers to form UESF in 1989. After a two-year hitch in the Army, Jerry got his teaching credential at San Francisco State University and did additional post graduate work at USF. He was also a lifetime worker for the 49ers, Giants, and USF.

Family: Mitch & Tom Russell, Maria Nova Russell, Michael, Alex, Romana, Juanita, and Rosalie DeRyan.

**View Gerald DeRyan's obituary, send flowers, and sign the guestbook [HERE](#).**