



Labor Chorus

2013 holiday party-a Great Success.

On December 18, 2013 over 100 people, mostly senior citizens, gathered at the North Berkeley Senior Center. This party was a joint effort: the senior center provided the space and most of the food. Gray Panthers put on the entertainment.

As people gathered, they heard the piano playing seasonal selections – performed 4-handed by Lawrence Sweeney and Vicky Jennings. At the door, Jeannie Dritz handed people a [program of events](#). Julia Cato brought a dummy to display a sample of our Gray Panther t-shirt, with an order form attached. For those inclined to more healthy food, Claire Risley brought fruit -- mandarin oranges and clementines. All these goodies went very fast.

Many in the audience were wearing festive clothing. Red Santa Claus hats were much in evidence. After everyone was seated, master of ceremonies Steve Geller, wearing a “Rasta Claus” hat (Santa with white dreadlocks)

(continued) welcomed everyone and thanked the musicians and the center staff

The chorus performance was followed by Elliott Kenin of the Freedom Song Network, “Spirit of '29”, playing a banjo. He asked the audience to serve as a band, and passed out tamborines.



At one point he told the story of the Christmas Truce, which happened during WWI. In December 1914, between Christmas Eve and the end of Christmas Day, British and German soldiers stopped shooting and fraternized in no man’s land, exchanging cigarettes and chocolates and singing traditional Christmas songs, each in their own language.

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