Speak Out Now at Kaiser

A workplace newsletter for Bay Area Kaiser workers

September 24, 2026

SOLIDARITY WITH OUR COLLEAGUES!

Kaiser continues to delay in contract negotiations and as such, there is strike authorization vote for CNA members that will go from September 14th through October 13th.

This doesn't necessarily mean that nurses will be going on strike, but it is a step in that direction. After record high profits, Kaiser is refusing to meet modest demands for adequate staffing and stable scheduling, putting corporate profits ahead of staff wellbeing and patient care!

It is important that those of us not in CNA show solidarity with our colleagues and support them in any way we can! Only through supporting our fellow workers and showing that we are all members of one team can we fight for a fair, equitable workplace.

WORKERS KNOW BEST, MANAGEMENT SHOULD LISTEN

When patients and staff pull into the parking garage by the horseshoe, the curve into the parking lot is really tight. Unfortunately, with elderly patients driving to their appointment, they misjudge the turn and sometimes crash their car into the curb and the metal barrier that separates the road from the sidewalk.

On top of that, there is a small crosswalk that goes right through that turn, which is for people walking from the parking garage towards the hospital. That turn is not well lit, and parking attendants have warned management that it is only a matter of time before someone gets hit by a car on that little intersection.

But despite repeated warnings, nothing has changed. Workers who see issues both inside and the outside the hospital know best how to fix them.

NOT A SURPRISE

The micro-management of food service workers in the Nutrition Services Department has us wondering: does management think we are here to serve them first and our patients second? Workers know how to do our jobs–and how to care for our patients–better than management does. This kind of pressure, unfortunately, doesn't come as much of a surprise.

Last fall, Kaiser in Northern California laid off 184 employees, primarily in IT and food service. Oakland was hit by these layoffs. When nutrition workers are forced to do more with less, that usually equals stress for the workers and more micro-management!

WHAT IS NORMAL CULTURE IN THIS JOINT?

Who is treated badly? Is this normal? What does "bad" mean, and why is this considered normal? Sometimes when things fall into the cracks in our workflow, blaming the issues on a group of people is fairly common.

With the amount of work that is put on us, when management time and time again does not do what they need to do to hire more people—and we should have more support to provide proper patient care—this is what creates the bad culture of this joint.

FREE THE MINNESOTA 15! RALLY ON OCTOBER 3RD, 1 PM

15 activists have been indicted by the federal government for their role in the Minneapolis anti-ICE movement that developed after ICE murdered Rene Good and healthcare worker Alex Pretti in January 2026.

The government is trying to punish the popular resistance movement by targeting union and community activists for their opposition to ICE's brutality.

We must stand strong with the accused--because if they are guilty, we are all guilty. We must not let the government scapegoat and punish those who did the right thing. Join us for a rally in solidarity with the defendants on Saturday, October 3rd, at 1pm at Lake Merritt! If you can't come, contact **BAreaMN15@proton.me** to learn about future events.



Speak Out Now
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We Must Stand Up Against Their Blatant Attacks on our Lives

It couldn't be any clearer that this is a society openly run in the interests of the corporations and the billionaires. Their agenda includes cutting social services for the poor, cutting taxes for the super rich, waging wars, destroying the environment, attacking immigrants, and trying to criminalize those who stand up to them. They don't even try to hide it, doing it all out in the open, and making it increasingly clear for people to see and choose a side.

The U.S. war on Iran has unleashed a new wave of devastation across the Middle East, claiming tens of thousands of lives and displacing millions more. It has worsened the economic struggles of ordinary people in this country and around the world. Diesel prices recently hit an all-time high, with an average of $6.29 per gallon, up 68% since the U.S. war on Iran began. And because diesel powers much of the economy (trains, tractors, trucks), those costs keep pushing up prices for food, goods, and anything that requires shipping.

At the same time, the U.S. continues to back the Israeli genocide in Gaza, which continues despite corporate news channels trying to keep it off the news. Even as Palestinians face mass starvation, the U.S. is helping Israel accelerate the genocide by providing Israel with a $2.8 billion weapons package of 40,000 bombs, one of the largest weapons provisions in recent years.

The headlines around artificial intelligence (AI) also keep getting worse. There are warnings that AI will lead to massive layoffs, greater environmental destruction, intensifying global conflicts, and increasing risk that AI technology could get out of control and put humanity at risk. Meanwhile, the Trump administration is lowering the regulations on power plant emissions to allow unregulated gas plants to power the AI boom.

As life becomes increasingly difficult for working people, the corporations, Trump and the billionaires can't even hide how much money they are making. Trump's personal income increased by about 350% in his first year back in office — from $622 million in 2024 to $2.2 billion in 2025, making it the largest financial gain for any president in U.S. history. This is open corruption by using his power as president to enrich himself. And, since Trump's second term began, U.S. billionaires increased their wealth by 22% in 2025 alone, gaining $1.5 trillion in just one year. Meanwhile, since 2025, working class households have been paying about $350 extra per month just to keep up with the rising cost of living.

But in the face of these blatant attacks, it is getting easier to see this society for what it is — a war on ordinary people here and around the world in order to enrich the very few at the top. It is increasingly clear that we cannot leave the future in the hands of billionaires who profit from destruction. It is becoming more urgent for people to choose a side, take a stand, and speak out.

Recently, AI researcher Jacob Coxon resigned from the AI company Anthropic to warn the world that the industry is moving too rapidly, and that companies could soon build AI that humans cannot control, which could put all of humanity at risk. Coxon was willing to walk away from his high-paying job and risk retaliation to send the warning that even those building these systems fear how they will be used under this system of profit, war, and destruction.

And last week, when rapper Macklemore took the stage in New Jersey and declared support for Palestine during an Ed Sheeran tour, NFL stadium owners united to pressure Sheeran into removing him from the remaining dates. Robert Kraft, billionaire owner of the New England Patriots, led the effort to threaten him into silence.

But Macklemore refused to be silenced, and defended why he stood with Palestine and against genocide. Since then, other artists on the tour have followed suit, dropping out rather than remaining silent, choosing to side with Palestinians instead of those who defend genocide.

Aaron Rowe, an Irish singer who was opening for Sheeran on the tour, dropped out and had this to say: *"as Irish people we know all too well about genocide, forced famine and violent occupation. I cannot stand by and allow billionaires to use their position of power to silence the rightful voices of those who speak up against Israeli genocide and who highlight the savage murder of children. I would lose all respect for myself to carry on as normal."*

Rowe's words are for all of us. We cannot let the people in power continue driving us down this path while putting our futures in jeopardy. Every day they maintain control, the greater the threat they pose. The billionaires and politicians who have led us down this path cannot be trusted to get us out of their mess. The situation we face is not easy, but it is pushing more and more people to take a stand in opposition to the powerful. Others can begin to take a stand too. The future is up to us!