

Gray Panthers, NYC Network, was solidly represented on Sunday at the January 15 Martin Luther King Global Candle lighting Vigil and ceremony held at Riverside Church. Some of our most valued activists attended: Norman Siegel, Joan Davis, Ed Shaw, Antoinette Emers, Jack Kupferman, and others. In spite of the bone chilling temperatures, it was a packed house where every pew was full, a moving and energizing set of speakers, a beautiful and iconic venue, an intergenerational mosaic of NYC, a confident feel of activism and history, reverence and appreciation for decades of progress. The roster of speakers clearly spurred us to action today.

In spite of the enormous progress on social justice issues that have been made since the 1960's, the corporate assault has eroded the financial and personal independence of Americans. The problem remain as virulent as it has ever been. We must remember that unity is needed. While we will not always agree on every issue, those who disagree with us can also benefit from the progress we work toward. This is our charge. As we achieve our dreams, our legacy can positively energize the nation and the world.

The Occupy Wall Street movement, who were some of the prime organizers of this Candlelight Vigil bring new life to our efforts. As so clearly expressed at the ceremony, Occupy Wall Street is the legacy of Dr. King's activism, ideals and non-violent approach. Many of the serious issues underlying today's world are the same of those facing Dr. King.

Gray Panthers calls for thoughtful, effective action to address some of the glaring and painful financial and human rights inequities in the United States today. It's always time to step up to the plate. And, now, we have a framework to work together toward a better world.

Do you want to get involved? Work with us at Gray Panthers, Age and Youth in action to work toward a world closer to our ideals. 917 535 0457