

Marchers reflect on the People's Climate March

At the People's Climate March on September 21, 2014, Gray Panthers Members here in New York reflect on their experience.

“I want to thank the Gray Panthers for the opportunity to participate in the People Climate Change March 2014. We, the family of peoples, have a great responsibility to protect and defend our environment. This March increased my awareness that we, as an international community, are an interdependent human family. Our decisions and behaviors affect all of us.

Furthermore, it was a lot of fun!”

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Nolasco

“The elders in the People's Climate March yesterday witnessed a moment many of us have waited for - a time when the Youth would come together and join in this daunting struggle for a livable planet. When the sounds, music, voices and general hubbub noises were stilled for a moment of silence at 12:59 p.m. - this huge congregation of people so quiet and hushed - I knew us oldsters and youngsters were as one. A thrilling moment for me!”

Nydia Leaf



By: Jan BenDor, National Board Chair, Gray Panthers

Back in mid-summer, when the national Gray Panthers Issues Committee decided to sign onto the People's Climate March as a partner, we had no idea how momentous this event would become. On Sunday, Sept. 21, I had the honor to be among 411,000 marchers from all over the world, and to join with some two dozen New York Gray Panthers Network members and supporters. Many thanks to Jack Kupferman, Gray Panthers NYC Convener, and to Joan Davis, for their work to organize our group.

We made many new friends as we marched with others in the peace and justice section, to the spirited music of the Leftist Marching Band from Portsmouth NH. Onlookers cheered when they saw our Gray Panthers banner. We fielded two Gray Panthers contingents. The first kicked off at 77 Street, with Jack, Elizabeth Nolasco, Rick Sanford, Kathy Kline, Karen Kahn, me, and others from a variety of allied groups including *Gray is Green*. The second came in at 44th Street, with Joan Davis, Helen Hamlin, Adele Bender, Rosetta Garrett, and Michelle Peppers and others from Ribbon International. To quote Jack's report, *"Throughout the March, we heard, 'I'm glad Gray Panthers is here,' and similar sentiments. All of us, elders and young, raising our collective voices, demand progress toward reversing climate change."*

Human survival is at stake, and I am more hopeful than ever that we will reach the critical mass of unified public support to change the fatal course humans are on. But the effort to stop the burning of deadly fossil fuels will take every single one of us, pressuring constantly on our local, state, and national leaders. As speakers on the "Climate--Which Way Out?" panel on Saturday night agreed, we have less than 40 years before the earth heats to a point of no return. (You can view the Panel video of Bernie Sanders, Bill McKibben, Naomi Klein, Chris Hedges, and others at [here](#).)



Of the thousands of creative signs and costumes at the March, my favorite was the sign with a dinosaur puppet perched on top: “*We didn’t see the asteroid coming. What’s your excuse?*” (pictured above).

Out of the 2,646 similar events in 162 countries, there will be a concerted movement to stay united and keep the pressure on. There is a real opportunity to see policy change at the 2015 World Climate Summit. And in many cities, there will be local action to establish municipally-owned energy utilities, such as in Portland OR and Boulder CO, which are already in the process of moving whole urban areas completely off fossil fuels and onto renewables by 2020. We can and must do this for our children and grandchildren.



You can see a wrap-up summary in print and video [here](#).

The Oceanic Preservation Society has posted video of their spectacular Climate Projection Show last Saturday night at the UN. Scroll down on the talking points page to [see the beautiful 4 minute film](#).



Media coverage was poor on the major networks, but excellent on MSNBC, the Amy Goodman Show, and in print:

- 1) [Taking a Call for Climate Change to the Streets - The New York Times](#)
- 2) [Greens: Climate march shatters record - POLITICO](#)
- 3) ['Largest-ever' climate-change march rolls through NYC - USA Today](#)
- 4) [Hundreds of Thousands Attend Climate March - Wall Street Journal](#)
- 5) [People's Climate March: Worldwide Action - NBC News - TV Clip](#)
- 6) [Mass protests at People's Climate March - CNN - TV Clip](#)
- 7) [The People's Climate March is a reason to be a climate optimist - The Guardian](#)
- 8) [India rallies against climate change ahead of UN talks - UK Yahoo News](#)
- 9) [Unions join the climate fight - Fortune](#)
- 10) [Protesters 'sound the climate alarm' in global marches - Al Jazeera](#)
- 11) [Burn Noticed - The Daily Show - TV Clip](#)
- 12) [Climate Change Marchers - The Colbert Report - TV Clip](#)
- 13) [Thousands pack New York's streets to march against climate change - LA Times](#)
- 14) [The Wisdom of the Crowd - The New Yorker](#)
- 15) [Decenas de miles de personas participarán en la Marcha Global contra el Cambio Climático - Publico - Spain](#)