

## March-April Calendar

Gray Panthers will participate in several events during the United Nations NGO Committee on the Status of Women meeting in the first week of March:

**Monday, March 1**  
6:15 pm  
Dinner with Gray Panthers from Taiwan. Meet at 1st Ave & 46th Street outside UN gate. Email shiuyan@aol.com to attend.

**Tuesday, March 2**  
2 to 4 pm  
Tzu Chi on Health, at the Church Center, 777 UN Plaza, 2nd Fl corner of 44th Street & 1st Avenue. Moderator: Judy Lear.

**Wednesday, March 3**  
1 to 3 pm  
Forum on Widows, National Council of Jewish Women, 820 2nd Avenue between 43rd & 44th Streets.  
"Beijing + 15: Where are Older Women Now?" National Council of Jewish Women, 820 2nd Avenue btwn 43rd & 44th.

**Wednesday, March 10**  
1 to 3 pm  
Gray Panther Meeting: "Stolen Identities: How to Protect Yourself from Scams," with Herman de Jesus, Neighborhood Economic Development Advocacy Project (NEDAP). Penn South, 328 West 28th Street (between 8th & 9th Ave.), Room 7A

**Sunday, March 28**  
1 to 4:30 pm  
Granny Peace Brigade Forum: "The U.S. & Abolition of Nuclear Weapons." Riverside Church Assembly Hall, 120th Street & Claremont Avenue (one block west of Broadway).

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On April 17, 1970 **Maggie Kuhn** met with five friends, all recent or prospective retirees, to plan collective “action on public issues.” This meeting was the origin of the Gray Panthers movement, and 2010 marks its 40th anniversary.

**Saturday, April 17**  
1 pm  
"Gray Panthers Celebrate 40 Years of Activism":  
Street theater action. Pennsylvania Avenue in front of the White House—across from Lafayette Park, Washington DC.

6 to 10 pm  
40th Birthday Gala. Aria Trattoria, 1300 Pennsylvania Avenue, Washington DC. For reservations call Susan Murany at the National Gray Panther office, 202 737 6637 ext. 28; toll-free 800 280 5362 ext. 38, or email smurany@graypanthers.org

**Monday, April 26**  
1:30 pm  
"Our Environment—Our Future?" Gray Panthers will sponsor the Selis Manor monthly luncheon speakout program. Selis Manor, 135 West 23rd Street between 6th & 7th Avenues.
Gray and Green …

• October 17 Judy Lear, Shiuho Lin, and Jack Kupferman participated with 200 others in a NYC Million Tree Project planting day at the Frederick Douglas Houses playground on Amsterdam Avenue & 102nd Street.

• October 24 Lear, Lin, Joan Davis, Betty Herman, Laurie Norris, and Clarence Pearson carried our Gray Panther banner across the Brooklyn Bridge with 400 marchers from 350.org, Greenpeace, The Sierra Club, and 1Sky to mark an International Day of Climate Action. Lear and Davis joined 350.org’s Times Square press conference at 3:50 pm to demand that global atmospheric carbon dioxide (CO2) be reduced from 387 parts per million to 350.

• On November 10 Davis, Herman, and Lani and Roger Sanjek joined the “Kill the Drill” rally preceding a NY State Department of Environmental Conservation hearing on industry-proposed natural gas “hydraulic fracturing” drilling upstate, including within the NYC watershed. This extraction process has been linked to leaks, spills, contaminations, and explosions in other states.

• Gray Panthers, NYC Network attended a used electronics disposal day sponsored by the East Side Recycling Center January 10.

>>> Gray Panthers NYC Network Launches Updated Website!!!
www.graypanthersNYC.org
Give us your feedback and suggestions. Join us online, at events, and in the streets. Special thanks to Gray Panther Beni Price for making this happen.

Panthers on the Prowl …

• October 16 Convener Judy Lear spoke to a leadership training group in the Bronx organized by Bola Arbidesi of JPAC.

• Bob Wesner, Beni Price, Shiuho Lin, and Joan Davis represented us at State Senator Liz Kreuger’s Senior Resource Fair October 29.

• Roger Sanjek spoke about his book Gray Panthers (University of Pennsylvania Press, 2009) at the November 9 New York StateWide Senior Action Council meeting.

• In her capacity as National Gray Panther Chair, Judy Lear visited South Korea and Taiwan during November. She spoke about Gray Panther and UN activities, and met with students, women’s groups, peace activists, and Taiwanese Gray Panther members. At a press conference she stated she wanted “Koreans to know that there are people in the USA who are fighting for peace … all over the world, especially in Afghanistan, and not to send their troops there.” In Taiwan National Gray Panther executive director Susan Murany joined her.

• Gray Panthers celebrated the Holiday season December 18 at a potluck lunch with NY StateWide Senior Action Council, JPAC, and OWL.

• February 1 Lear and Davis participated in a rally at MTA headquarters to save student Metrocards.
Granny Peace Brigade...

December 2 the Granny Peace Brigade, including charter member Gray Panther Convener Judy Lear, returned to the Times Square Recruitment Center to protest President Barack Obama’s escalation of the Afghanistan war. Later in December GPB members began a “No More War Toys” campaign, highlighting items like “G.I. Joe,” “Girl G. I. Joe,” and a Navy Seal doll, in demonstration inside Toys ‘R Us and Target in Manhattan and Brooklyn. They followed up with protest signs at the Toy Industry Association awards banquet in February, and a campaign promoting “Smart Toys for Smart Kids.” For more about the GPB see their website www.grannypeacebrigade.org, and come to their March 28 forum on nuclear weapons (see page 1).

HAPPY 100th LENORE!

Lenore Fine, a former New York Gray Panther member and network convener, celebrates her 100th birthday in Berkeley, California, March 11th. During the late 1980s and early 1990s Lenore led Gray Panther protests against war toys at NYC’s annual toy industry show.
Senior Outrage Coalition (SOC) ...

In March 2010 New York City plans to close the Open Door, a 24-hour drop-in center for homeless adults on 9th venue and 41st Street across from the Port Authority bus terminal. Opened in 1988, the facility serves 200 people a day, offering hot meals, showers, and chairs to sit or sleep in.

The City’s closure announcement in November followed it’s shuttering last June of Peter’s Place drop-in center for homeless adults on West 23rd Street. This move was protested by the new Senior Outrage Coalition in weekly demonstrations at the site and, finally, at City Hall. Scores of SOC members from New York StateWide Senior Action Council, the Gray Panthers, and several union retiree groups participated.

Visitors to Open Door wait outside in the snow. (photo: J.B. Nicholas, Chelsea Now)

When Peter’s Place was closed its elderly shelter seekers were directed to Open Door. Now Open Door clients are being redirected to the smaller Olivieri Center on 30th Street and Eighth Avenue, even though three-quarters of them are male, and until recently the decades-old Olivieri program was run as a safe space for homeless women.

The City and its Department of Homeless Services (DHS) are not clear about homeless shelter plans. There are conflicting statements: Open Door is being closed because of No. 7 Subway extension construction; clients are being shifted to faith-based shelters; clients are being offered unspecified permanent housing alternatives; shelter beds in Manhattan are being relocated to Brooklyn.

“They’re closing these centers one by one,” Maria Alvarez of SOC explains, and soon “we’re not going to have any left.” During 2009 more than 120,000 New Yorkers of all ages were counted in City shelters by DHS. The Coalition for the Homeless warns that homelessness in New York City is at the “highest levels since the Great Depression.”

SOC is monitoring the situation, and working with Public Advocate Bill de Blasio to clarify city policy. We worry that a city policy of “planned shrinkage”—cutting intake services so that people just go away—as in the Koch and Giuliani years is returning to New York. One homeless man told Chelsea Now reporter Matt Harvey, “I’ll be sleeping at the Port Authority” terminal if Open Door closes.

For more information see Matt Harvey’s Chelsea Now report:
http://www.chelseanow.com/articles/2010/02/12/news/doc4b758c71e5903897528317.txt
The world is a global community. People encounter increasing risk of epidemic disease outbreak, natural disasters, and hazard pollution. No single country can resolve its public health problem without the cooperation of the others. Global financial crisis, food crisis, and climate change crisis add more challenges to global public health with limited international financial aid commitment. Gray Panthers offer the following global public health recommendations.

• Each country has primary responsibility for its public health. Government needs to involve people in all sectors in policymaking and implementation. An inclusive policy with accountability and transparency will win support of people and global financial partners. A non-governmental organization (NGO) can input ideas and oversee implementation.

• Educate people about clean water and hygiene to prevent infection. Educate them about healthy diet, physical activity, environmental health, mental health and social activity for disease prevention and good quality of life.

• Use information and communications technology in education, information sharing, conferencing, and billing. Knowledge empowers people. It helps doctors treat patients more effectively. An effective and secured database system not only saves money by requiring fewer clerks but takes the billing hassle away from doctors and patients.

• Build a service credit system. In this global financial crisis, a lot of people are losing jobs. With proper training, people can help take care of patients and earn service credits for exchange of their future care.

• Give incentives and build a good volunteering system.

• Pay medical school tuition for doctors and nurses for the exchange of service in rural areas after graduation.

• Increase sales tax on tobacco and alcohol to discourage consumption. Impose regulation of higher medical fee for smoker and alcohol abuser.

• Punish the environment hazard polluters and ask them to pay for their action.

Gray Panthers believe health care is a human right. Every human being has the right of basic health care and medical treatment. We advocate for environmental justice. The United Nations has a responsibility to evaluate the agreed implementation status and to be sure of the proper use of financial aid. Learning from the successful countries, constant discussion with the irresponsible government and all the stakeholders, setting regulations, with the help of global partners and NGOs, the United Nations can achieve the Millennium Development Goals.
Check out the National Gray Panthers website --

www.graypanthers.org

Join the Gray Panthers NYC Network

2010 Membership Form

Please print:

Last name__________________    First Name ________________________

Address ____________________________________________________

City ________________________  State _____  Zip ___________________

Telephone ________________    Email _____________________________

__  $30.00  Individual Dues
__  $50.00  Family or Sustaining Dues
__  $10.00  Student Dues
__  Low/Fixed income - contribute whatever you can: $ _________
__  Additional donation for 2010:  $ _________

I want to receive meeting notices and NETWORK REPORT by:

Email: _____        U.S. Mail: __

Make checks payable to “New York Gray Panthers Project Fund, Inc.”

Send to: Gray Panthers NYC Network, 244 Madison Avenue #396, New York NY 10016

Donations to the Gray Panthers are Tax Deductible

Telephone: 212 799 7572    web site: www.graypanthersNYC.org

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