

2008 Gray Panthers NYC officers: Convener, Judy Lear; Treasurer, Marcia Goffin; Recording Secretary, Roger Sanjek; Communications Secretary, Shiuho Lin; board members, Joan Davis, Anne Emerman, Jill Gerson, Jack Kupferman, Beni Price, Mary Springer, Michael Texeira, Bob Wesner.

Panthers on the Prowl ...

The New York City Network celebrated its 35th anniversary in December 2007. **Roger Sanjek**, who attended the 10th and 20th anniversaries, reviewed network history and our continuing Gray Panther concerns about U.S. and global wealth inequality, health care, housing, and disarmament.... **Judy Lear**, **Jill Gerson**, and **Mike Texeira** spoke about ageism to groups of teenagers at the **Americorps City Year "Young Heroes"** program at three schools in February.... In April **Judy Lear**, **Joan Davis**, and **Shiuho Lin** represented us at **NY State Senator Liz Krueger's annual senior citizen fair**.... In May we joined the **Generations United Seniors 4 Kids** campaign for expanded funding for pre-kindergarten. **Beni Price** has joined the GPNYC board.... **Judy Lear**, **Roger Sanjek**, and **Joan Davis** will be our delegates to the **National Gray Panther Convention** in Detroit September 25-28.... **Judy Lear** has been elected **Gray Panther National Chair** and will take office in January 2009. Congratulations **Judy!**

Housing

In May, **Judy Lear**, **Mike Texeira**, and **Gloria Rich** attended a reception hosted by **Picture the Homeless** and **Community Voices Heard** for **Jill Gerson's Hope Springs Maternal: Homeless Mothers Talk about Making Sense of Adversity**. Women whom **Jill** interviewed read excerpts from her book.... We are supporting the **Housing Not Warehousing Coalition** of housing, social justice, and religious organizations which advocates using empty buildings and lots to house homeless New Yorkers.

Health

Our February meeting on **"Innovative Health Care Delivery Services"** feature **Martha Heller**, Director of Patient Services at Metropolitan Jewish Hospice, **Jill Gerson**, and a representative of **Silver Sneakers**, a physical fitness company aimed at older people.... We continue our memberships in **Metro NY Health Care for All** and the **Long Term Care Community Coalition**.

Gray and Green

In April, May, and June Gray Panthers NYC presented three “**Gray and Green**” evening forums at the Hudson Guild. Organized to explore “how climate change affects an aging population and how older people can contribute to a healthier and greener environment,” according to Gray Panther **Jack Kupferman** of the **Gray & Green Coalition** Steering Committee, the sessions attracted from 35 to 70 people.

The first panel, “**Aging in a Globally Warming World,**” featured **Stuart Gaffin** (NASA & Columbia University Center on Climate Change), **Charles Guzzetta** (Hunter College School of Social Work), and **Richard Jordan** (UN DPI/NGO Conference on Climate Change.) The May contributors to “**How to Use Your Gray Matter to Keep Things Green**” were **John Liu** (City Council Member, Queens), **Majora Carter** (Sustainable South Bronx), and **Patricia Brownell** (Fordham University). In June the speakers addressing “**Unleashing the Power - Action, Action, Action!**” were **Alex Kalache, M.D.** (NY Academy of Medicine), **William Shore** (Kendall Retirement Community), **Betsy Ukeritis** (Environmental Educator, NY State Department of Environmental Control), and **Michael Zamm** (Council for the Environment of NYC.)

Jack Kupferman reported on these Gray & Green activities to the **UN NGO Committee on Aging** and with **Judy Lear** will present a Gray & Green workshop at the **International Federation on Aging** meeting in Montreal in September. The Gray & Green Coalition includes 14 organizations that have contributed members and resources to its activities, and its Gray & Green Steering Committee is preparing followup materials and actions



Gray Panthers Joan Davis, Muriel Beach, Jack Kupferman, Bola Aribidesi, Judy Lear, Beni Price, and Shiuho Lin at May 2008 Gray & Green meeting.

Age-Friendly Cities

In 2007 the **World Health Organization (WHO)** issued an 80-page report, **Global Age-friendly Cities: A Guide**, based on research in 33 cities worldwide, but including only Portland, Oregon, in the continental U.S. In fall 2007 the **New York Academy of Medicine**, working with the Mayor's and City Council President's offices, began an "**Age-Friendly New York**" initiative involving government agencies, private organizations, service providers, and academics, and contacted the Gray Panthers.

In January 2008 **Jessica Walker** of the NY Academy of Medicine discussed the initiative at a Gray Panther meeting. We prepared a summary of WHO report recommendations in line with GP positions on health care, housing, accessibility, and intergenerationalism. These included (quoting from the WHO report):

- *"Older people everywhere voice a clear desire for basic health and income support. Health care costs are perceived as too high everywhere."*
- *We need to "co-locate or decentralize [health] services so they are available in all neighborhoods."*
- *"The cost of housing is a major factor influencing where older people live and their quality of life."*
- *"A range of housing options in the local area [where older people have lived] to accommodate changing needs is regarded as an important age-friendly feature."*
- *Home layouts need accessible "bathrooms and toilets, kitchens, railings and elevators" and "passages and doorways to accommodate wheelchairs."*
- *Traffic lights should not "change too quickly" and should have "a visual countdown so pedestrians know how much time they have to cross" and "auditory signals at pedestrian crossings."*
- *Buses should have signage and timetables that "indicate whether the bus is one that is accessible to people with disabilities."*
- *"In nearly all cities" people "underlined the great need to facilitate and organize encounters between the generations working together."*

Gray Panthers **Judy Lear, Roger Sanjek, Lani Sanjek, Jill Gerson, Anne Emerman, and Shiuho Lin** participated in **Age-Friendly New York** steering committee meetings, roundtables, and community forums, offering our perspectives. A final report has not yet been published. We plan to continue to advocate for policies that will make New York truly age-friendly--healthy, well-housed, accessible, visitable, and more intergenerational.

Peace

As a **Granny Peace Brigade** member from the group's first protest against the war in Iraq in October 2005, Convener **Judy Lear** has led **Gray Panthers** in supporting this coalition of peace and social justice organizations. In January 2008 GPB member group **Grandmothers Against the War** celebrated its 4th anniversary with a march in black to the Times Square military recruitment center. Founder Joan Wile's book, **Grandmothers Against the War: Getting off Our Fannies and Standing Up for Peace** (Citadel Press, \$14.95), was published in April, and is available from Amazon.com and elsewhere. Joan says, "If you're interested in a straightforward account of the events leading up to, during and following our notorious arrest and jailing ... you'll find it in my book. It's been quite a ride."



In March Roger and Lani Sanjek joined the Granny Peace Brigade and other groups at Rutgers Church to mark five years of U.S. occupation in Iraq. July 4th Lear, the Sanjeks, Marcia Goffin, Shiuho Lin, and Joan Davis joined the GPB, civil liberties attorney Norman Siegel, State Senators Eric Adams and Bill Perkins, and many others at Strawberry Fields in Central Park for a reading of the Bill of Rights and speak-out to celebrate Independence Day.

Check out the National Gray Panthers website --

www.graypanthers.org



Join the Gray Panthers NYC Network

2008 Membership Form

Please print: Date: _____

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 2008: \$ _____

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."

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

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

Donations to the Gray Panthers are Tax Deductible

NETWORK REPORT Issue #10

NETWORK REPORT is the newsletter of the Gray Panthers NYC Network

Editor, Roger Sanjek - rsanjek@earthlink.net