New York Gray Panthers Join March 2007 Protests To End Four Years of War in Iraq

Tuesday, March 13, 1-3 pm - Gray Panther open meeting: “Actions on Peace.”
Speakers from the Granny Peace Brigade, United for Peace & Justice, and Raging Grannies & Their Daughters of WILPF (Women’s International League for Peace & Freedom) will brief us on activities during March. **Meeting location:** Room 7A Penn South, 330 West 28th Street (between 8th and 9th Avenues—enter in the middle of 26th Street between the theater and parking lot, or in the middle of 28th Street by the ‘330 W. 28th St’ sign, and then follow the walkway to its midpoint and turn west to Room 7A in the first building facing you.) **ALL ARE WELCOME—PASS THE WORD—BRING YOUR FRIENDS!**

Sunday, March 11 to Friday, March 16, sunrise to sunset - “’Endless’ War: A Memorial.”
Granny Peace Brigade and others will read names of U.S. and Iraqi military and civilian war dead at Times Square Recruitment Center, Broadway & 44th Street. Come anytime, or **join New York Gray Panthers on Thursday, March 15, 2-3 pm.** Call 212 533 2125 or email endlesswarmemorial@email.com to schedule a time to participate.

Sunday, March 18, 2 pm - “March in NYC to End the War!” Join thousands of New Yorkers to demand: “Bring Our Troops Home Now,” “No More Billions for War,” “Fund Human Needs.” Sponsored by United for Peace & Justice. **Assemble at 1 pm at 36th Street & Sixth Avenue. March begins at 2 pm across 42nd Street to Dag Hammarskjold Plaza.**
# Upcoming Gray Panther Meetings & Events:

| In April - | Community Hearing on Universal Health Care, sponsored by NYGPs with NYC Healthcare-Now, NY Metro Health Care for All Campaign, Chelsea for Peace, Penn South, Fulton House Social Action Committee, Presbyterian Senior Services, & others. Details to come. |
| In April - | State Senator Liz Krueger’s Resource Fair for Seniors & Caregivers, Temple Emanu-El, 1 East 65th Street at Fifth Avenue, 1-5 pm. NYGPs will participate. |
| May 11 - | Under the Radar: Old & Poor in a City of Riches, forum on poverty among seniors in NYC sponsored by NY Citizen’s Committee on Aging, 9 am-12 noon, Selis Manor, 135 West 23rd Street (off Sixth Avenue). Participants include Mary Mayer and Anne Emerman. |

Flyers with information on date, time, and location will be mailed to NYGP members.

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## New York Gray Panthers in 2006-07

**March 2006.** Ten Gray Panthers rallied at the Criminal Court House in support of the eighteen-member Granny Peace Brigade (GPB). Anne Emerman testified before the City Council Housing Committee for Disabled in Action and the NYGPs about including accessible units for disabled New Yorkers in Mayor Bloomberg’s affordable housing initiative. Judy Lear and Mike Texeira attended the National Gray Panther Board meeting in California.

**April.** Gray Panthers joined GPB and Harlem Grandmothers at the 125th Street Post Office to protest the Iraq war on Income Tax Day. Judy Lear and other GPB members appeared on a cable tv program to speak about their April 20 trial, which resulted in extensive press coverage and a “not guilty” verdict. April 29 nine NYGPs joined the March for Peace, Justice and Democracy in New York City organized by United for Peace and Justice as part of anti-war demonstrations nationwide.

**May.** Forty attended our Housing Forum at Goddard Riverside Community Center where Goddard’s Family Council organizer Larry Wood provided an overview of city and state housing issues, Jillian Youngblood of Housing Here and Now! outlined the Fair Rent Laws Campaign and efforts to press banks on loans to slumlords, Dave Taylor of Presbyterian Senior Services spoke about their new Bronx building for grandparents raising
grandchildren, and Anne Emerman covered the current struggle over revising the NYC building code to preserve and enhance accessibility standards.

**June-July.** At Artepasto Restaurant in Greenwich Village thirty NYGPs and friends enjoyed our annual dinner meeting. Past convener Lillian Sarno installed officers and board members serving until 2008, and Silver Springs, Maryland 7th Grader Sarah Schwartz spoke about her National History Day project on Gray Panther founder Maggie Kuhn…. June 24 several NYGPs marched with GPB members, including Judy Lear, and other supporters to the Times Square Recruitment Center to see them off on a ten-day “Granny Peace Trek” through New Jersey, Philadelphia, Delaware, Maryland, and Washington DC to protest the Iraq war…. Convener Judy Lear spoke about Gray Panthers at a Baptist Church in Brooklyn.

![Image of Granny Peace Trek](image)

**September.** Four NYGPs joined 100 Granny Peace Brigade members and supporters on September 10 in marching across the Brooklyn Bridge with 25 large “Troops Home Now” balloons, rallying at City Hall, and reading names of troops killed in Iraq at the 9.11 Ground Zero site…. The NYGPs endorsed NY Shares, a match program to bring together people age 62+ with available room in their homes and younger graduate students in need of affordable housing…. And we mourned the passing of two longtime veteran New York Gray Panthers, Martha Frankel and Raphael Blechman.
October. After discussion at a “Political Action Speak Out,” three NYGP position statements were drafted--on peace by Sally Connors, on housing by Anne Emerman, Jill Gerson, and Ronnie Cordina, and on universal health care by Mike Texeira--and later printed as flyers and published in the Fall 2006 NETWORK REPORT.

November. On a rainy afternoon following election day six NYGPs responded to Larry Wood of Goddard Riverside on housing issues, Eva Lee Baird of Code Pink on anti-war political actions, and Ajamu Sankofa of Healthcare-NOW on single-payer universal health care.

December. NYGPs called Senators Clinton and Schumer and their Congress Member to urge an end to the Iraq war.... Our membership meeting on “The Politics of Food” featured J.C. Dwyer of the NYC Coalition Against Hunger, Bob Lewis, a founder of NYC’s greenmarkets three decades ago, of the New York State Department of Agriculture, and Linda Ameroso of Cornell University Cooperative Extension.

January 2007. On New Year’s Day NYGPs joined a Grandmothers Against the War vigil at Rockefeller Center to mark the 3,000th U.S. military death in Iraq.... Judy Lear traveled to Washington DC on a GPB trip to lobby Senators against the war.... Lani Sanjek of NY StateWide Senior Action Council spoke at the membership meeting about “The Outlook for Medicare,” including both Part D and an expansion of Medicare to cover all Americans.

2007-08 New York Gray Panther officers: Convener, Judy Lear; Treasurer, Joan Davis; Recording Secretary, Roger Sanjek; Communications Secretary, Shiuho Lin; board members, Anne Emerman, Jill Gerson, Gloria Korecki, Mary Springer, Michael Texeira, and Bob Wesner.
Hope Springs Maternal incorporates the latest information on homeless mothers, changes to laws and policies regarding the homeless in New York and nationally, and discussion of their implications for social workers, politicians, and administrators concerned with helping homeless mothers establish independent lives for themselves and their children.

Using extensive interviews with twenty-four young women of color living in temporary shelters in New York City and either pregnant or with very young children, Jill Gerson analyzes these shelter users’ backgrounds, current living experiences, and views of home, family, and parenting. She finds that most of the mothers had experienced various disruptive experiences in childhood and adolescence and that their shelter use was closely related to adverse economic realities faced by many poor women of color.

Jill Gerson (DSW Graduate Center of the City University of New York, MSW Hunter College School of Social Work) is a longtime resident of New York City who has focused her social work practice on program development for under-served youth and families with young children.

GRAY PANTHERS ON IMMIGRATION

Gray Panthers are offended by demagoguery on immigration issues. Valid border security concerns and humanitarian concerns are both swept away when fear, rather than principle, dominates national debate. We will not yield silently to the politics of fear, racism, class warfare and divisiveness. Therefore, Gray Panthers only supports changes in immigration law, policies and practices that:

• Are consistent with human rights as expressed in the United States founding documents and in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

• Affirm the rights of all persons, whether native born or immigrant, to the protections afforded by the Constitution, including rights to due process of law and rights of equal access to public services and resources.

• Implement humanitarian immigration policies which admit refugees from war, natural disasters and persecution, and which provide for the reunion of family members.

• Are blind as to ethnicity, race, creed and national origin, including especially those policies and practices which determine how immigrants are treated at our borders.

• Require dignified working conditions and a living wage for all workers, regardless of their legal standing, citizenship or temporary status in the workforce.

In addition, we call for training and public education to ease assimilation of immigrants and to promote inter-cultural understanding.

Gray Panthers will monitor and support legislation which includes actions consistent with these principles.

This is the position statement of the National Gray Panthers as formulated by its national Board of Directors in 2006.