



GRAY PANTHERS

Age and Youth in Action

2023 GRAY PANTHERS NYC ANNUAL HIGHLIGHTS

Local ♦ National ♦ Global





Letter From the Board of Directors

2023 was a year of record growth and accomplishments for Gray Panthers NYC. Our monthly Transformation Tuesday program continues to make great strides in bringing together leading voices from around the country to discuss long-term care. Jack Kupferman, president, and Michelle Arnot, vice president, were invited by the World Health Organization, Geneva, to present and contribute to its long-term care initiative. Carrie Lejedal, board member, was instrumental in the passage of the Illinois Essential Support Persons Law (SB2322).

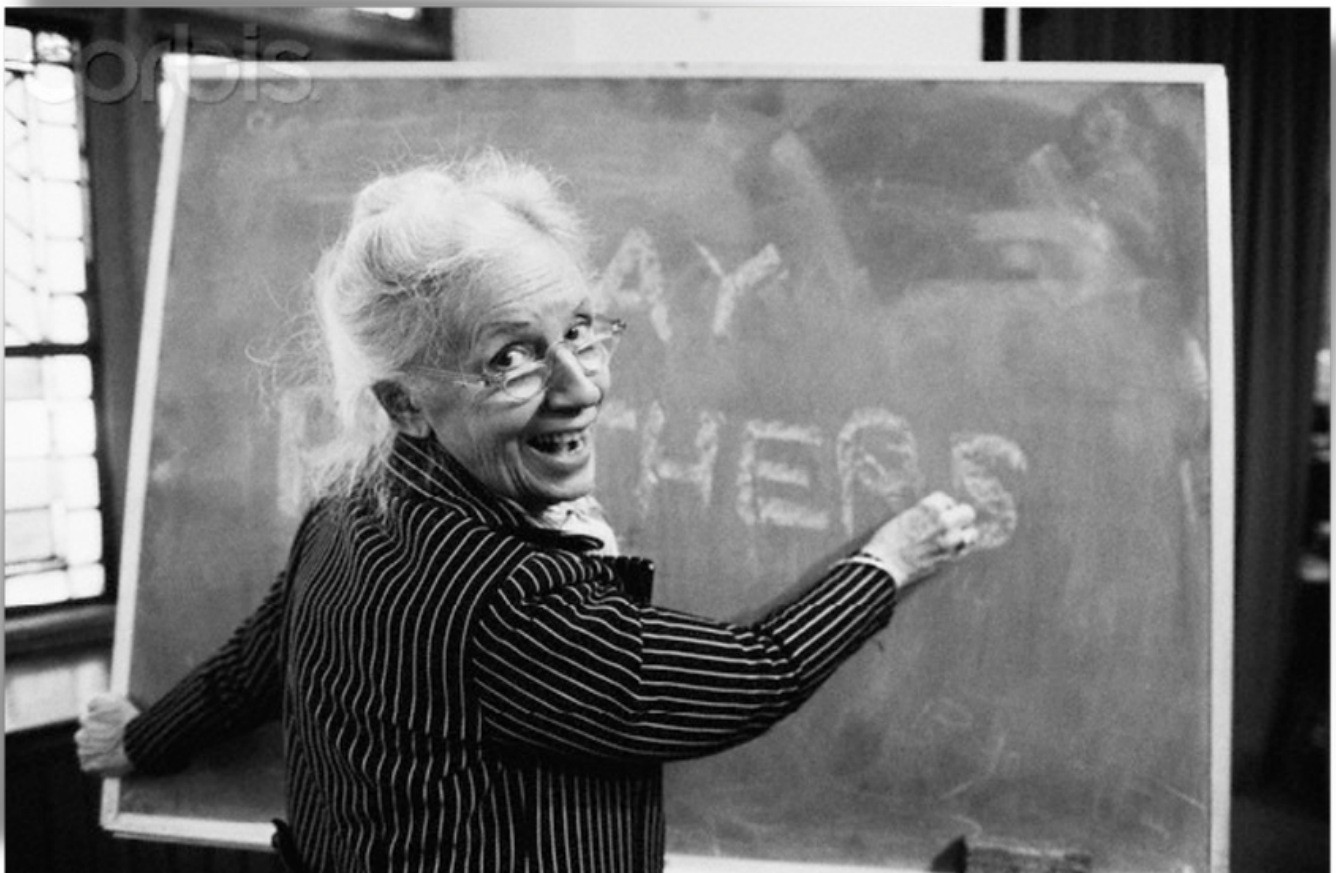
This year the Board welcomed Melanie Schnuriger as Treasurer, as well as Carrie Lejedal, Long Term Care Family Advocate, and regretfully accepted the resignation of Frances Zainoeddin, UN Representative, who stepped down after 12 impactful years.

In 2024, after more than 15 productive and eventful years as President, Jack Kupferman will assume a newly created role as Chief Catalyst Officer, and hand over the leadership to VP Michelle Arnot who joined in 2021. Brendan Birth, Secretary and Blog Master, and Edith Cresmer will remain as active members.

For 2024 GPNYC has set three aspirational goals:

- 1) to develop a long-term care resource Toolkit to accompany the Transformation Tuesday series
- 2) to adapt the UN Sustainable Development Goals into its long term strategy
- 3) to apply to the US Postal Service for a stamp honoring Maggie Kuhn, founder of the Gray Panthers

We invite you to participate in any of these exciting projects as we continue to forge ahead tirelessly to advocate for older adults.



More Highlights from 2023




DC VISIT: In February, Jack Kupferman and Michelle Arnot met with Sen. Ron Wyden (D/OR), longtime Gray Panther and chair of the Senate Finance Committee to present him with the Three Tiered Demonstration Project, a visionary proposal on long term care developed by the Live Oak Project, of which GPNYC is a founding member. Currently this proposal is under review by the US Senate Budget committee.

[Learn more here.](#)

UNITY SERIES: GPNYC continues to advocate vigorously for LTC facilities with our signature program, Transformation Tuesdays, on the last Tuesday of each month. In May, we introduced the Unity subset, co-chaired by Michelle Arnot and Carrie Lejedal, LTC Family Advocate, with the intention of building bridges among advocates, industry leaders and residents. For the complete list of programs:

- Unity for Long-Term Care, May 31
- One Mad Mom Made a Difference - the Power of Family, June 27
- Building Bridges with the Community: Coler Rehab and Open Doors NYC, July 25
- Building Bridges with the Industry, August 29
- Above Beyond Honorees Profiles in Compassion, Sept. 26



HONORING NURSING HOME LIVES | THE COVID TRAGEDY

AGE AND YOUTH IN ACTION

GRAY PANTHERS

TRANSFORMATION TUESDAYS

An Educational Webinar Series sponsored by Gray Panthers NYC

**Above & Beyond Honorees:
Profiles in Compassion**

Sept 26, 2023, 2 pm to 3 pm ET

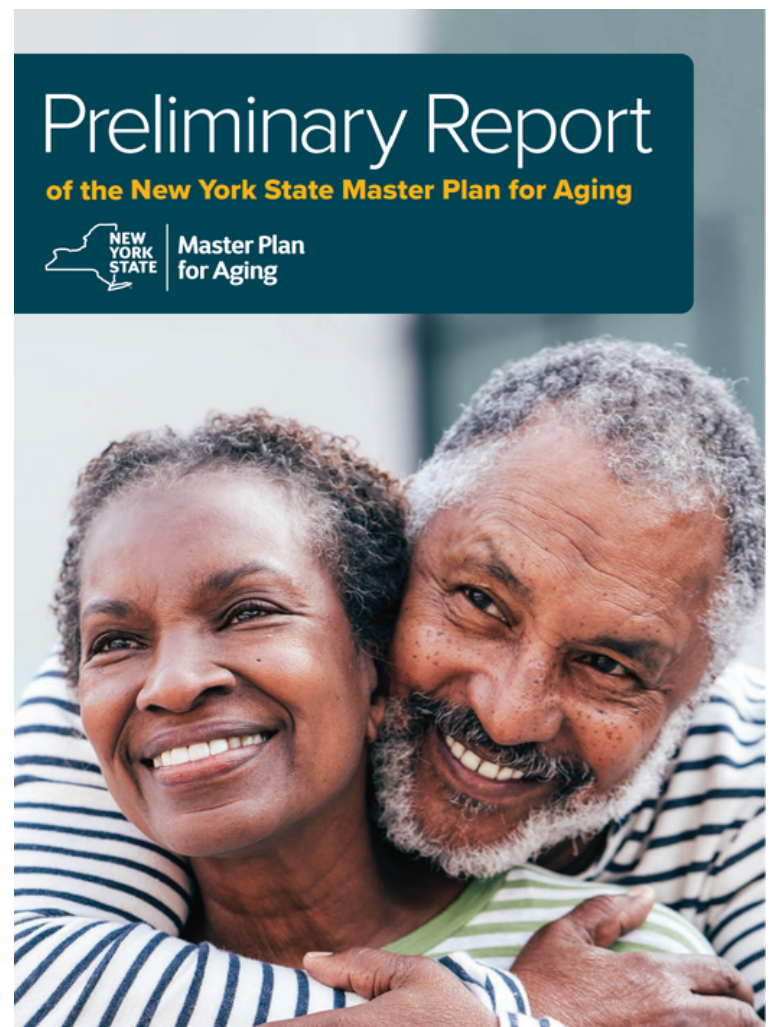
ABOVE & BEYOND AWARDS: The GPNYC introduced the Above & Beyond awards highlighting staff who worked during and despite the pandemic. Twelve deserving individuals from around the nation were honored in the September webinar ([watch here](#)). Sen. Gillibrand sent congratulatory letters to the winners.



MASTER PLAN ON AGING:

NY Gov. Hochul organized an initiative to create a plan for the growing contingent of older adults in the state. GPNYC joined dozens of nonprofit organizations to gather data and create the roadmap. For details, visit:

https://www.ny.gov/sites/default/files/2023-09/MPA_Preliminary_Report_FINAL.pdf



UNITED NATIONS: As a member of the Stakeholder Group on Aging, a committee of organizations that represent older adults at the United Nations, GPNYC participates in annual UN events by creating panels of international voices.

For more information, visit:

<https://www.stakeholdergrouponageing.org/>

UN Events

GPNYC is an active member of the Stakeholder Group on Ageing (SGA). In this capacity and with assistance from Sylvia Beales, GP- EU representative, Jack Kupferman, President, organized and facilitated an international panel on Age Friendly Cities LINK as well as the High Level Political Forum.

In July, Michelle, Vice President, addressed the General Assembly in a Town Hall on leaving no one behind.



In October, Jack delivered the keynote speech to the graduates of Lifecare Malawi.

College wants trained caregivers recognised

By Sellina Tambula

LifeCare College and Health Sciences has called on the government and other stakeholders to recognise the important role that trained caregivers play in providing care to vulnerable groups.

President of LifeCare Foundation, Pax Matipwiri, said this during the graduation of 120 caregivers and patient assistants at the institution's campus in Chigumula, Blantyre, on Friday.

Matipwiri said the role of caregivers cannot be overemphasised as many members of vulnerable groups are not receiving adequate care in communities.

"We are happy that the government is now realising the role of caregivers. We are the



PROUD MOMENT— A caregiver (left) poses with Kupferman— Picture by Sellina Tambula

only institution in Malawi that is offering this course and we need support," Matipwiri said.

Guest of honour Jack Kupferman, who is President of Gray

Panthers in the United States, said caregivers are well positioned to reach out to vulnerable groups such as the elderly.

On her part, Blantyre District Health Office

Nursing and Midwifery Officer Modester Mwangomba said health personnel cannot provide healthcare to all vulnerable groups in communities.

"There is a lot that goes into taking care of patients, apart from giving them medicine. And, to this end, caregivers play a great role such as feeding, bathing and providing counselling to vulnerable groups within their communities," Mwangomba said.

Thandi Godoka, who was the overall best student, said she decided to study caregiving to help vulnerable groups enjoy the life experience.

LifeCare Foundation has trained over 600 caregivers since it was established.

GPNYC Hosted Age-Friendly Cities and SDG 11 – A Template for Everyone

 Age Friendly Cities and SDG 11 – A Template for Everyone - R...  Watch later  Share

Age-friendly environments benefit all community members by removing physical and social barriers and fostering inclusiveness.

This not only benefits older people. It also improves accessibility, addresses gender inequities, and helps build the resilience of communities for emergencies.



Watch on  YouTube

disasters. So in a nutshell with the right approach and 

GPNYC in the News & On the Road



[Jack Kupferman & Gray Panthers NYC Commentary on 74-Year-Old NY Resident's Murder](#)

[Woman's Murder Reignites Fears About Growing Old In NYC, Jack Kupferman on MetroFocus](#)

[Quality Of Life For The Aging LGBTQ+ Population, GPNYC's Jack Kupferman Interviewed in Queerful](#)

Michelle Arnot and Carrie Lejedal on 45 Forward with Ron Roel-After the Pandemic: How Can We Improve Our Long-Term Care System?



Michelle Arnot

Radio interview with
Michelle Arnot
Vice President,
Gray Panthers NYC
and
Carrie Lejedal
Caregivers for Compromise
State Spokesperson



Carrie Lejedal

Edith Cresmer
Attended Kick the
Crap Out of Ageism:
Introductory Self-
Protection Seminar
for Seniors



Carrie Lejedal,
Attended the Center
for Innovation
Conference



Disturbing Trend Alert: Increase in Financial Scams
Targeting Seniors



SENIOR CITIZEN
SCAMS ON THE RISE

Watch on YouTube

Transformation Tuesday

For the third consecutive year, GPNYC continued its Transformation Tuesday series, a think tank on the future of Long Term Care. The roster of distinguished panelists included representatives from a wide variety of organizations and attracted a global audience.

For more details, visit:

<https://www.graypanthersnyc.org/transformationtuesdays>



In Residence

GPNYC is proud to include these In Residence initiatives.



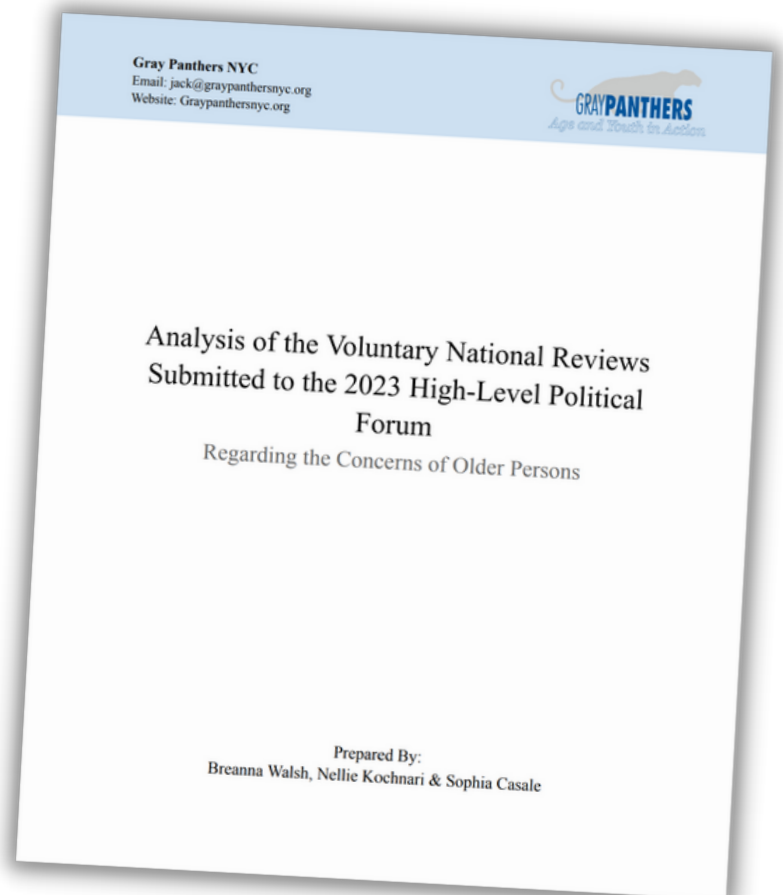
Caring By Card
Nursing Home Card Project

Learn more: <https://www.graypanthersnyc.org/in-residence>

Intern Program

Summer interns Sophia Casale, UMass Boston, Nellie Kochnari, The Elliott School of International Affairs, and Breanna Walsh, George Washington University, worked on three sizable projects. For the Stakeholder Group on Ageing committee at the UN, they produced the Voluntary National Review (VNR) analysis, which consists of reports from 39 United Nations country members. This analysis was prepared in anticipation of the High Level Political Forum for Sustainable Development at the United Nations held in July. The review covers how and to what degree older persons were considered (or not) in relation to the UN's 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

[Download here](#)



Sophia organized the Second Annual GPNYC Intern Reunion, which took place on July 13th via Zoom with current interns as well as some from 2013. Interns attended from many parts of the country. “We had a newlywed, a few furry friends, and a couple of graduate students in attendance. Above all so much love was shared among attendees.”

Finally, our three interns updated Julie Flanagan’s 2016 Legal Services Directory to encompass the legal services currently available within NYC’s five boroughs as of August 2023. These services include NYC Department for the Aging (DFTA)-funded, private bar referral, legal clinics and other direct legal services. This resource is now available on the GPNYC website and accessible at no cost.

[Download here](#)





Special Thanks

OUR MAJOR DONORS

**Jill Gerson
The Hartford Foundation**

Thank you also to:

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Neva Sharon
Karen Taylor**

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Meg LaPorte

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GP National: Randy Block, Chair, National Council of GP
Networks, Michigan



About Us

The Gray Panthers are a series of multi-generational local advocacy networks in the United States which confront ageism and many other social justice issues. The organization was formed by Maggie Kuhn in response to her forced retirement from the Presbyterian Church at the age of 65 in 1970.

[Volunteer](#)



[Donate](#)



Gray Panthers NYC

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