2023 GRAY PANTHERS NYC
ANNUAL HIGHLIGHTS

Local ♦ National ♦ Global

www.graypanthersnyc.org
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 Leljedal, 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 Leljedal, 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.
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 Leljedal, 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

**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.
GP NYC Hosted Age-Friendly Cities and SDG 11 – A Template for Everyone

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.
GP NYC 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, GP NYC's Jack Kupferman Interviewed in Queerful
Michelle Arnot and Carrie Leljedal on 45 Forward with Ron Roel—After the Pandemic: How Can We Improve Our Long-Term Care System?

Edith Cresmer Attended Kick the Crap Out of Ageism: Introductory Self-Protection Seminar for Seniors
Carrie Leljedal, Attended the Center for Innovation Conference

Disturbing Trend Alert: Increase in Financial Scams Targeting Seniors
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.

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
OUR MAJOR DONORS

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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.