



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

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

Earth Day 2009 - Gray and Green

“Stewardship of Our Planet—What Legacy Are We Leaving?”

Wednesday, April 22 - 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Hudson Guild Elliott Center, 441 West 26th Street
(between 9th and 10th Avenues)

Alex Kalache, MD -- Global Ambassador, HelpAge International

David Kluesner -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 2

Ken Gale -- Host of WBAI-FM Eco-Logic Show

Moderator: Muriel Beach – New York StateWide Senior Action Council

6:30 p.m., light refreshments -- **7:00-8:30 p.m.**, speakers/Q&A

>>by subway: C train to 23rd Street, or No.1 train to 28th Street

>>by bus: #M11 to 26th Street

>>for more information: call Jack at Gray Panthers – 917 535 0457

Gray and Green Coalition Members: *Chelsea for Peace; Community Service Society of New York; Congress for Senior Citizens of Greater New York; Fordham University School of Social Work; Goddard Riverside Community Center; Gray Panthers, NYC Network; Greater New York Chapter of Older Women's League (OWL); Hispanic Senior Action Council; International Longevity Center USA (ILCUSA); Institute for the Puerto Rican/Hispanic Elderly, Inc.; Joint Public Affairs Committee for Older Adults (JPAC); Keep America Beautiful, Inc.; Korean American Senior Center of Flushing; New York StateWide Senior Action Council; Presbyterian Senior Services; Services and Advocacy for GLBT Elders (SAGE); Taiwanese American Association of New York*

Tuesday, May 12, 1:30-3:30 p.m.

Celebrate the **100th birthday** of former New York Gray Panther Convener **Lillian Sarno** at Peter's, 82 Columbus Avenue (between 68th/69th Streets.)

Topic: health care. RSVP: 212 799 7572. (See page 4)

Panthers on the Prowl ...

In February, **Judy Lear, Joan Davis, Sally Connors, Pam Peterson, Anne and Sidney Emerman, Shirley Tsai, and Shiuho Lin** were among the 500 attending the **East Side Housing Coalition** forum “**Housing Security in Insecure Times: Who Holds the Key?**” ... On March 5 Judy Lear, Joan Davis, and **Roger Sanjek** were part of 10,000 or more New Yorkers at a City Hall Rally for the **Fair Share Tax Bill**. Later passed by the New York State legislature, it raises state income tax rates for very high earners, and helps fill New York State’s budget deficit.... March 16 Anne Emerman testified at the **City Council Housing and Building Committee** in support of bills extending rent control and rent stabilization in New York City, and resolutions calling for the state legislature to repeal the Urstadt Law, which would return control over rent regulation to the city, and to repeal vacancy decontrol. She represented the Gray Panthers, **Kips Bay Tenant Association**, and the East Side Housing Coalition....



Joan Davis, Norman Siegel, and Shiuho Lin at Times Square on March 19

March 19 marked the **6th anniversary of the U.S. invasion of Iraq**. Gray Panthers joined the **Granny Peace Brigade** to protest the war at the Times Square Armed Forces Recruiting Center, the scene of their 2005 demonstration and arrests. Later that day Gray Panthers joined Chelsea for Peace and Friends and Family of the Abraham Lincoln Brigade from 4-6 p.m. at a table on 23rd Street and 8th Avenue.

Under a sign reading “**Money for Health Care not Warfare,**” they collected postcards signed by seventy passersby to mail to Congressman Nadler, Senators Schumer and Gillibrand, and President Obama asking them to “support national health care and end the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.”



Estelle Katz, Judy Lear, a Chelsea for Peace member, Shiuho Lin, Sidney Emerman, and Anne Emerman at 23rd Street and 8th Avenue on March 19

April 4 Gray Panthers joined the **United for Peace and Justice** march of 10,000 through Wall Street calling for diversion of funding for wars in Iraq, Afghanistan, and Pakistan to support for health care, education, affordable housing, infrastructure rebuilding, and green jobs at home.... On April 7 **Gray Panthers NYC board members** signed and mailed letters to New York State Senators calling for repeal of vacancy decontrol (already passed by the Assembly)—“hundreds of thousands of apartments have been deregulated and the number grows”—and for repeal of the Urstadt Law—“return to the people of New York City the right to rule themselves.”

Gray Panther Board meetings are the first Tuesday of each month, 6-8 pm at Selis Manor, 135 West 23rd Street (between 6th & 7th Avenues).

>>Upcoming meeting dates: May 5, June 2

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, Bob Wesner.

Happy 100th Birthday to Gray Panther Lillian Sarno!

Lillian Sarno, a lawyer and social worker, joined the New York Gray Panthers when she retired in 1976. In 1980 she was elected Convener of the network, and over the next two decades provided leadership as a convener or co-convener, board member, housing task force chair, speaker in person and on radio, testifier at City Council and Community Board 7 hearings, letter-writer, and strategist. She led and participated in countless elected official visits, tablings, leafletings, marches, rallies, and vigils, and represented the network in numerous coalitions, including groups supporting women's issues and the Housing Justice Campaign.

After the New York network ended regular meetings in 2000, Lillian continued to write letters to elected officials and oversee network financial and legal matters. She participated in meetings during 2003-2004 when Convener Judy Lear reactivated the New York network, and in 2006 she installed the current officers.

On April 30, 2009, Lillian Sarno celebrates her 100th birthday. On May 12 at 1:30 p.m. the Gray Panthers NYC network will honor Lillian at Peter's (82 Columbus Avenue, between 68th and 69th Streets). Lillian's suggested topic: health care.



Lillian Sarno at New York Gray Panthers 30th anniversary, 2004

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Gray Panthers

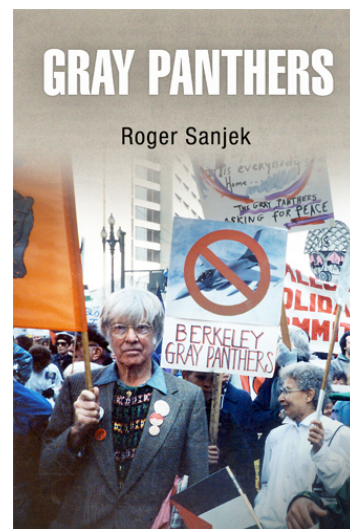
"Gray Panthers makes a substantial contribution to the literature of aging, social movements, and U.S. history."--Renée Rose Shield, Ph.D., Director, Resource Center for Geriatrics Education, Brown University

In 1970, a sixty-five-year-old Philadelphian named Maggie Kuhn began vocally opposing the notion of mandatory retirement. Taking inspiration from the civil rights and anti-Vietnam War movements, Kuhn and her cohorts created an activist organization that quickly gained momentum as the Gray Panthers. After receiving national publicity for her efforts--she even appeared on the Tonight Show with Johnny Carson--she gained thousands of supporters, young and old. Their cause expanded to include universal health care, nursing home reform, affordable and accessible housing, defense of Social Security, and elimination of nuclear weapons.

Gray Panthers traces the roots of Maggie Kuhn's social justice agenda to her years as a YWCA and Presbyterian Church staff member. It tells the nearly forty-year story of the intergenerational grassroots movement that Kuhn founded and its scores of local groups. During the 1980s, more than one hundred chapters were tackling local and national issues. By the 1990s the ranks of older members were thinning and most young members had departed, many to pursue careers in public service. But despite its challenges, including Kuhn's death in 1995, the movement continues today.

Roger Sanjek examines Gray Panther activism over four decades. Here the inner workings and dynamics of the movement emerge: the development of network leadership, local projects and tactics, conflict with the national office, and the intergenerational political ties that made the group unique among contemporary activist groups. Part ethnography, part history, part memoir, Gray Panthers draws on archives and interviews as well as the author's thirty years of personal involvement. With the impending retirement of the baby boomers, Sanjek's book will surely inform the debates and discussions to follow: on retirement, health care, and many other aspects of aging in a society that has long valued youth above all.

Roger Sanjek is Professor of Anthropology at Queens College, City University of New York. He is a J. I. Staley Prize winner, a John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation Fellow, and the author of *The Future of Us All: Race and Neighborhood Politics in New York City*.



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Check out the National Gray Panthers website --
www.graypanthers.org



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2009 Membership Form

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

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Editor, Roger Sanjek - rsanjek@earthlink.net