



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

telephone: 212 799 7572  
web site: [www.graypanthersNYC.org](http://www.graypanthersNYC.org)

## Immigration, Assimilation, Diversity - Bringing Generations Together

### A Gray Panther NYC Network Forum

Dr. Ilze Earner, Assistant Professor,  
Hunter College School of Social Work, CUNY

Yi-Miao Huang, Executive Director of the Taiwan Center,  
Flushing, Queens

Moderator: Roger Sanjek, Gray Panthers

Wednesday, November 14, 6:30-8:30 p.m.  
Hunter College School of Social Work, Room 1010  
129 East 79<sup>th</sup> Street at Lexington Avenue  
(take #6 subway to 77<sup>th</sup> Street stop, walk two blocks north)

... and join us December 11 to celebrate the 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
of the Gray Panthers in New York City:

*Looking Back, Looking Forward - Gray Panther Activism in the Next Decade*

Income inequality, retirement security, universal health care,  
housing & transportation, disarmament, peace

Members will receive notification of meeting time and location

### ***FRIEDA ZAMES WAY!***

*The southeast corner of First Avenue and East 4<sup>th</sup> Street is set to be named "Frieda Zames Way" in honor of the longtime disability activist, Gray Panther ally and supporter, and co-author with Doris Zames Fleischer of The Disability Rights Movement: From Charity to Confrontation (2001), who died in 2005. Community Board 3 has approved the street name change, and City Council action is expected by December.*

*2007-08 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, Mary Springer, Michael Texeira, and Bob Wesner.*

## Panthers on the Prowl ...

Marcia Goffin, our new treasurer, and Jack Kupferman have joined the Gray Panthers NYC Network board. Welcome!... In July Mike Texeira alerted Gray Panthers to send emails protesting the racist noose-hanging incident by three white high school students in Jena, Louisiana, and the subsequent criminal charges filed against six protesting black students. In September thousands of "Jena Six" national supporters converged in Jena.... The Gray Panthers NYC Network has rejoined the **Long Term Care Community Coalition** of New York State. Roger Sanjek is our representative.... In August Convener Judy Lear was interviewed by Gothamist.com. You can read it on-line at: [www.gothamist.com/2007/08/31/judy](http://www.gothamist.com/2007/08/31/judy)

## Peace



**September:** On Grandparents Day, September 9, Judy Lear, Roger Sanjek, and Joan Davis participated in the Granny Peace Brigade's Iraq War protest events: a march over the Brooklyn Bridge, press conference and speeches at City Hall (with a "finger puppet theater" skit produced by Judy), and reading names of New Yorkers killed in Iraq at Ground Zero.

**October:** On a rainy Saturday, Shiuho Lin, Jill Gerson, and Jack Kupferman carried the New York Gray Panther banner in the October 27 United for Peace and Justice parade to protest the Iraq War.

**Every Thursday:** Join the noon Granny Peace Brigade Phone-A-Thon to call Congressional offices (1-800-828-0498) to end the Iraq War. Call wherever you are, or check [www.grannypeacebrigade.org](http://www.grannypeacebrigade.org) for the GPB location, and bring your cell phone.

## Housing

**May:** Five Gray Panthers were among the 7,000 New Yorkers at the **Housing Here & Now** coalition's May 23 "**Ring Around Stuyvesant Town**" march and rally to preserve affordable housing, repeal rent destabilization, and stop unfair rent increases and landlord harassment.

**May-June:** Anne Emerman, Roger Sanjek, Judy Lear and several disability advocates met with City Council staff to argue against weakened **accessibility** standards, and for stronger **visitability** and ageing in place provisions, in the new **City Building Code**. Anne and Roger then testified at a Housing Committee hearing, and Anne at two Council meetings, but the new Code passed and was signed by Mayor Bloomberg. Although the Code contains improved fire safety and conservation provisions, we need to build support among activists and elected officials to amend it. We also will work for a **visitability bill** for new residential construction and substantial renovation.

### Essential Visitability Features



Visiting Family



Visiting Friends



Visiting All Homes



No-Step Entry



Adequate Doorways



Usable Bathroom



Easy for Families



Easy for Seniors



Easy for All

**October:** Bob Wesner chaired a membership meeting panel on "What to Do If You Need Help: Responses to Disasters & Trauma." Panelists included Ani Kalayjian of Fordham University, Nora O'Brien of the Brookdale Foundation, and Monica Serrano of United Neighborhood Houses. Nora alerted us to the NYC Office of Emergency Management's "Ready New York" pamphlets available by calling 311 or on the [www.nyc.gov](http://www.nyc.gov) website.

## Health

*In June 1973, 34 years ago, the New York Gray Panthers staged their first public forum, titled "Do We Need a National Health Service?" They demanded a health care system that was universal, comprehensive, continuous through the life cycle, locally accountable, and financed by progressive income taxation. Their manifesto stated:*

*"Although we have the financial means, the medical knowledge and skill, and a productive capability second to none, the US has failed to translate these strengths into a health system able to assure all our citizens good health service. Our presented mechanisms for financing and delivering health care are so obsolete that a complete overhaul of the present system is necessary.... As the central motivating and driving impulse, the profit motive is out of place in a system of health care."*

*We still stand by that. In 1977 we embraced Congressman Ron Dellum's National Health Service Act embodying these principles. In 1985 ten GPs, including founder Maggie Kuhn, conducted a study-trip of Canada's health service. They found a system run independently in each the provinces, and under which people chose their own doctors (who worked privately, not as government employees as in England). No one was denied care, and no one was charged for doctor visits or hospital stays. Without the paperwork burden and profiteering of multiple private health insurance plans, Canada's single-payer system was less costly than the US, and it provided the same or better health outcomes.*

*In 1990 the GPs endorsed, lobbied, and began circulating petitions for Senator Paul Wellstone's single-payer universal health care bill. While President Bill Clinton rejected single-payer, and Hillary Clinton's "managed competition" plan went down to defeat in 1994, GPs remained single-payer supporters through the 1990s and into the new century.*

**May:** More than 75 people attended our May 21 "Universal Health Care Hearing" at Hudson Guild. Speakers addressed expansion and improvements to Medicare and Medicaid, HR 676 the Congressional single-payer health care bill, other congressional and state initiatives, and positions of Presidential candidates. The panelists were Ajamu Sankofa of Healthcare - Now!, Denise Soffel of Medicaid Matters New York, and Mark Hannay of the Metro New York Health Care for All Campaign. We were entertained with songs from the Ragin' Grannies of WILPF and the Daughters.

**June:** Ten Gray Panthers viewed Michael Moore's new film "SiCKO," which advocates single-payer health care. Afterward we distributed a flyer prepared by Austin, Texas Gray Panther Paul Mixson to filmgoers. It stated: "Over 50 million Americans are uninsured and even more are under-insured. Uninsurance [causes] 18,000 deaths per year.... The tragedy is that these are preventable.... By eliminating private insurers, we would save \$200 to \$300 billion, which is more than enough money to provide free, comprehensive medical, dental, vision, mental health and long term care to all Americans."

**September:** The September membership meeting topic was "Health Issues: What is Happening?" Anthonine Pierre of the Children's Defense Fund-New York briefed us on S-CHIP (the State Children's Health Insurance Program), whose expansion is opposed by President Bush. Deane Beebe of the Medicare Rights Center (and a Boston GP in the late 1970s) discussed the need to permit negotiation of lower drug prices under Part D and to oppose overpayments to private Medicare Advantage plans. Richard Mollot of the Long Term Care Community Coalition detailed the case for a minimum daily-hours-per-patient staffing requirement in nursing homes, of which 90 percent have insufficient staff.

## National Gray Panther Board Meets in New York

The National Gray Panther Board met October 26-28 at Fordham University with members **Judy Lear** and **Mike Texeira** of the NYC Network in attendance. During the meeting a panel of **Joan Davis**, **Shiuho Lin**, and Board member **Tim Allison** discussed the recent **UN NGO Conference on Global Climate Change**. New York Panthers **Jim Collins**, **Roger Sanjek**, **Muriel Beach**, **Ronnie Cordina**, **Shirley Tsai**, **Genevieve Cervera**, **Florence Rice**, **Rose Roberts**, and **Anita Monick** attended the panel's presentation and joined the dinner that honored Gray Panther supporter **Dave Taylor**, executive director of **Presbyterian Senior Services**.

### Global Climate Change



**Shiuho Lin's** presentation at the National Gray Panther Board panel featured her fact-sheet on how climate change impacts us and what we can do about it. Here are some highlights:

>>A **Kenyan proverb** states: "The Earth was not given to you by your parents. It was loaned to you by your children." Global warming and its consequences are already upon us.

>> **Global warming** affects the world ecosystem, health and disease patterns, agriculture, water availability and sea levels, fishing, and future human migration.

>> The **1997 Kyoto Protocol** to cut greenhouse gases by 7 percent from the 1990 level before 2012 has been ratified by 175 countries but not the United States. However, **540 US mayors** have signed a **Climate Protection Agreement** to meet the Kyoto target, and a **UN Framework Convention on Climate Change** agreement is now under consideration to succeed Kyoto.

>> **We can:** switch to compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs) to conserve energy; use water more efficiently; walk, bike, car pool, use public transportation; reuse materials and recycle glass, metal, paper, plastic; grow vegetables, plant trees--NYC will plant one million by 2030.

NETWORK REPORT Issue #9

NETWORK REPORT is the newsletter of the Gray Panthers NYC Network

Editor, Roger Sanjek - [rsanjek@earthlink.net](mailto:rsanjek@earthlink.net)

In July 2007 the National Gray Panthers launched a new website --

[www.graypanthers.org](http://www.graypanthers.org)



**Other news:** The National Gray Panthers have been accepted into the Combined Federal Campaign under the Human and Civil Rights CFC #12480 category. If your employer participates in the campaign, you can designate the Gray Panthers to receive contributions.

## Join the Gray Panthers NYC Network

### 2008 Membership Form

*Please print:*

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."

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