



New York Gray Panthers
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***Gray Panthers to Support Granny Peace Brigade March 2;
Will Join 8:30 a.m. Rally Preceding Court Appearance***



The 18 Granny Peace Brigade Iraq War protesters (including NYGP Convener Judy Lear) arrested October 17 at the Times Square Army Recruitment Center will appear once more in Criminal Court **Thursday, March 2**. Instead of a March meeting, NYGP members will join them at an **8:30 a.m. rally in the park opposite the 100 Centre Street Court House**. Supporters able to stay for the 9:30 a.m. court hearing are encouraged to attend as well.

Since October NYGPs Ruth Begun, Naomi Dagen Bloom, Ron Bloom, Roz Boyd, Joan Davis, Rosetta Garrett, Jill Gerson, Shiuho Lin, Marie Maher, Ivy Pierre, Roger Sanjek, Mike Teixeira and Shirley Tsai also participated in peace actions. On Valentine's Day, February 14, 70 Brigade members, Raging Grannies, and supporters including Naomi, Ron, and Jill demonstrated again at Times Square from 12 noon to 1 pm. From there 50, including Roger, marched to Third Avenue and 49th Street to protest the continuing Iraq occupation in front of the offices of U.S. Senators Charles Schumer and Hillary Clinton.

Upcoming Gray Panther Meetings and Events:

Wednesday, April 5: Membership meeting: focus on current issues that are heating up by then—Medicare, Social Security, peace?

Saturday, April 29: Massive anti-Iraq War march in New York City; NYGPs have endorsed and will join the disability rights contingent.

May Meeting: on housing issues; date and location to be set.

Flyers with details on place & time for these activities will be mailed to NYGP members.

2006 NYGP officers: Convener, Judy Lear; Treasurer, Bob Wesner; Recording Secretary, Roger Sanjek; Communications Secretary, Shiuho Lin; board members, Joan Davis, Jill Gerson, Gloria Korecki, Marie Maher, Mary Springer, Michael Texeira.



Anti-War Organizing Activities

Fifty people attend our January 11 meeting, including 11 of the 18 **Granny Peace Brigade** members arrested October 17. A Canadian documentary crew covering older women's anti-war activities in New York, Canada, and Tucson, Arizona, recorded the event. The meeting was co-sponsored with **West Side Peace Action**, who are conducting a **weekly peace vigil on Saturdays from 1 to 2 p.m. at Broadway and 82nd Street** (in front of Barnes & Noble).

Joan Wile (see photo above), spokesperson for the Brigade--a coalition of eight groups--founded **Grandmothers Against the War** in January 2004 using email. To her surprise 50 people showed up for the first demonstration, and GAW continues its **weekly vigils on Wednesdays from 4 to 5 p.m. on 5th Avenue and 50th Street** (opposite Saks) and **Saturdays from 2 to 3 p.m. at the Times Square Military Recruitment Center**, joined by Veterans for Peace and other supporters. Joan was inspired by reading about the **Raging Grannies**, who sing anti-war lyrics to well-known songs and have branches in several cities. The NYC **Raging Grannies** are members of the Brigade, as are **Elders for Peace & Justice for the Next 7 Generations** (photo, page 1), **Grandmothers for Peace**, the **Women's International League for Peace & Freedom** and **Code Pink NY Women for Peace**.

Barbara Walker, a Brigade and vigil participant, spoke about her personal outrage over the Iraq invasion, and how this older women's anti-war activism is "magical" in drawing people's attention beyond its numbers. **Barbara Harris** of Code Pink also shared her personal story of peace movement participation, beginning in 1959 with SANE. Code Pink, symbolizing peace and playing on the Department of Homeland Security color code begun after 9.11, was formed in the Bay Area in 2002 to oppose President Bush's "pre-emptive strike" policy, and staged a 4-month anti-Iraq War vigil at the White House; it will focus on "bird-dogging" Senator Hillary Clinton, running for re-election in 2006, by using "big ears" props to stress that she is "not listening" to the majority opposition to the war.

>>> www.grandmothersforpeace.org www.panys.org/WSPA www.codepinkalert.org <<<

Gray Panthers Celebrate Maggie Kuhn's 100th Birthday

On a very cold December 14 day a dozen Gray Panthers met at the Hudson Guild to celebrate Gray Panthers founder **Maggie Kuhn's** 100th birthday. We viewed the 2004 video "Maggie Roars" recounting Maggie's life and leadership of the GPs for 25 years until her death at age 89 in 1995. Our guest speaker, Gray Panthers Executive Director **Susan Murany**, congratulated the NYGPs on "rejuvenating itself" and our work on peace, Social Security, disability issues, and press outreach. She stressed that GPs must expand by engaging people outside existing groups and movements, including "the people who need to hear from us most"—Bush voters and unreflective persons of the next generations—but we must "not change our beliefs." She discussed the GP "donut hole" postcards to protest the Bush Medicare Part D prescription drug program.

Older People Shaping Our Society "Speakout"

On February 8 **Judy Lear, Gloria Koriecki, Louise Sharpe, Regina Wachtel, Bola Aribidesi, Ann Emerman, Bob Wesner, Janet Altman, Roger Sanjek, Annemarie Mayer, Mary Springer** and **Doris Kaplan** met for a discussion of peace, health, disability, and housing concerns. Judy reported on past and upcoming peace actions, and we endorsed the April 29 mass march where we will meet with the disability contingent. We also endorsed the **United for Peace & Justice "Making New York City a Peace Zone"** campaign, especially the calls to divest New York City public pension funds from the Halliburton Corporation, a prime war "contractor," and to provide adequate funding for war veterans, including reversing planned Veterans Administration hospital cuts affecting New York City.

Gloria reiterated the need for changes in traffic signals for disabled and elderly pedestrians, including longer waiting times and audible signals. Ann filled us in on housing issues: making sure that Mayor Bloomberg's planned 165,000 housing units are accessible and affordable, and supporting mandated accessibility and adaptability standards in the new city building code likely to come to the City Council this year.

We sent GP "donut hole" postcards protesting the Part D program to our Congressmembers and Senators Clinton and Schumer urging support for the **Medicare Prescription Drug Savings and Choice Act of 2005 (HR.752/Berry, Schakowsky; S.345/Durbin)** that would establish a standard drug-coverage plan administered by Medicare and mandate government-negotiated prices for prescription drugs.

MEDIA WATCH

"Seniors Seeth at Medifarce" by **Ruth Kelton** in the November 2005 **THE INDYPENDENT** ("a free paper for free people") reported on **Lani Sanjek's** talk about Medicare Part D at our October meeting. Excellent story, Ruth!

Joan Davis urges everyone to call or write when they hear television news coverage that is wrong, incomplete, or one-sided. Here are some numbers and addresses to register your opinion:

WCBS (Ch. 2)	212 975 3247	524 W. 57 th St., NY NY 10019
WNBC (Ch. 4)	212 664 4444	30 Rockefeller Plaza, Suite 600, NY NY 10112
WNYW/Fox (Ch. 5)	212 452 3600	205 E. 67 th St., NY NY 10021
WABC (Ch. 7)	212 456 1000	7 Lincoln Square, NY NY 10023
WNET (Ch. 13)	212 560 3000	450 W. 33 rd St., NY NY 10001
WLIW (Ch. 21)	516 367 2100	PO Box 21, Plainview NY 11803
CNN	404 827 0234	1 CNN Center, PO Box 105366, Atlanta GA 30348
CSPAN	765 464 3080	400 N. Capitol St. NW, Suite 650, Washington DC 20001
MSNBC	201 583 4090	1 MSNBC Plaza, Secaucus NJ 07094

At their October 17, 2005 Times Square protest the Granny Peace Brigade affirmed:

We are grandmothers heartbroken over the huge loss of life and limb in Iraq. We feel it is our patriotic duty to enlist in the United States military today in order to replace our grandchildren who have been deployed there far too long and are anxious to come home now while they are still alive and whole. By this action, we are not supporting the use of military force in Iraq—in fact, we are totally against it. But inasmuch as it exists, our goal in joining up is only to protect young people from further death and maiming.

We grandmothers have all had the privilege of living long lives and are willing to put ourselves in harm's way so that our own and other people's grandchildren will have a chance to enjoy full lives as we have.

We believe these young men and women are being used as cannon fodder in an illegal and totally unjustified war against a nation which posed no threat to us. They were sent there on a web of lies and deceit resulting in untold harm to them and countless innocent Iraqi people.

We hope that by enlisting today we can help bring about the early end of this immoral occupation and the return of our brave young people to their homes and families...now.

Among the Raging Grannies' songs the Peace Brigade has sung at their actions is this, to the tune of "God Bless America":

God help America
We need you BAD!
'Cause our leaders, are cheaters
And they're making the world really mad.
Climbing mountains, crossing oceans
And invading foreign soil...
God help America
No blood for oil!
God FORGIVE America
No blood for oil!

NETWORK REPORT Issue #5

NETWORK REPORT, the newsletter of the New York Gray Panthers, began in 1973 and was published continuously through 2000. After the NYGP network reorganized in 2003, NETWORK REPORT was revived in December 2004. Editor, Roger Sanjek rsanjek@earthlink.net