



New York Gray Panthers  
165 West 86th Street  
New York NY 10024

telephone: 212 799 7572  
email: [GrayPanthersNY@yahoo.com](mailto:GrayPanthersNY@yahoo.com)  
[www.geocities.com/GrayPanthersNY/](http://www.geocities.com/GrayPanthersNY/)

## ***New York Gray Panthers Join Anti-Iraq War Protests***



New York Gray Panther Convener **Judy Lear** was handcuffed and arrested with 17 other **Granny Peace Brigade** members on October 17 at the Times Square Army Recruitment Center. The protesters spent five hours in jail. They appeared in court November 15 with their lawyer Norman Siegel and 50 supporters including NYGPs **Naomi Dagen Bloom**, **Joan Davis**, **Shiuho Lin** and **Marie Maher**. The Brigade's next court appearance is 9:30 am, January 10, at 100 Centre Street. Supporters are welcomed at 8:30 am. Judy also joined members of the anti-war group **Code Pink** at the November 11 Veterans Day Parade on Fifth Avenue; later that day she, Joan, Marie and **Roger Sanjek** were among the 150 at Code Pink's 6:30-8 pm vigil at Columbus Circle commemorating more than 2,000 US troops and thousands of Iraqis who have died in the Iraq war. (Also see Page 4.)

### ***Upcoming Gray Panther Meetings—2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday each Month (details on Page 2)***

December 14: *Gray Panther Founder Maggie Kuhn's 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday—Party & Video*

January 11: *Anti-War Organizing for 2006—Code Pink & Grandmothers Against the War*

February 8: *What is the Role of Older People in Shaping Our Society and Culture?*

2005 NYGP officers: Convener, Judy Lear; Treasurer, Bob Wesner; Recording Secretary, Roger Sanjek; Communications Secretary, Shiuho Lin; board members, Joan Davis, Jill Gerson, Edna Graig, Gloria Korecki, Marie Maher, Mary Springer, Michael Teixeira.

**December 14 “Gray Panthers Celebrate Maggie Kuhn’s 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday!”**



Maggie Kuhn founded the Gray Panthers in 1970 when she was forced to retire at age 65. She led the Gray Panther movement for the next 25 years until her death at age 89 in 1995. We will celebrate her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday with guest speaker Susan Murany, Gray Panthers Executive Director, and a viewing of the 2004 video “Maggie Roars” covering her life and accomplishments. Cake & Ice Cream; call 212 799 7572 for a reservation. **Time & location:** 1-3 pm, Hudson Guild, 441 West 26<sup>th</sup> Street, Manhattan.

**January 11 “Anti-War Organizing Activities for 2006”**

Barbara Harris of Code Pink NYC Women for Peace & Joan Wile of Grandmothers Against the War will update us on plans for 2006. After the meeting NYGPs are invited to join their 4:30 Peace Vigil at Rockefeller Center. **Time & location:** to be announced. New York Gray Panther members will receive a flyer with details before the meeting. >>>And join us Tuesday January 10 at 8:30 am, when Judy Lear & other Granny Peace Brigade members appear in court at 100 Centre Street; call 212.799.7572 for info.

**February 8 “What is the Role of Older People in Shaping Our Society and Culture?”**

We will speak out and share ideas with about how older people actively shape the society and culture they live in. Gray Panthers and friends of all ages are welcomed. Where do people go wrong; where do they go right; how can we be more effective? **Time & location:** to be announced. New York Gray Panther members will receive a flyer with details before the meeting.

The New York Gray Panthers mourn the passing November 15, 2005 of Myrna Lewis—social worker, psychotherapist, author, Gray Panther UN delegate. Affiliated with Mount Sinai School of Medicine and the International Longevity Center she is survived by her husband Dr. Robert N. Butler, M.D.

### Amnesty International

Joshua Rubenstein, Northeast Regional Director of Amnesty International, shared his 2-million member international organization's perspective on current human rights issues at the September meeting. AI was founded in 1962 and operates worldwide. It defends political prisoners and the Geneva Conventions and opposes torture, abuse of refugees, the death penalty, and the small arms trade. AI is against the secret US "renditions" of prisoners to third countries as well as holding people indefinitely without charging them. AI grassroots members participate in letter-writing campaigns to free political prisoners.

*To join or learn more contact: Amnesty International, 5 Penn Plaza, NY 10001/ 212.807.8400/www.amnestyusa.org.*

### Medicare Part D -- Prescription Drug Insurance

At the October meeting Lani Sanjek of New York StateWide Senior Action Council outlined the new Medicare Part D prescription drug benefit beginning in January 2006. Unlike "traditional Medicare" Parts A & B covering hospital and doctor costs where everyone is "in the same boat," each Part D beneficiary will have to choose one of many private insurance plans that vary in costs and drugs covered--unless they already have drug coverage under a "creditable" plan, including New York State's EPIC program, which they can stay with. Most people have until May 2006 to choose their plan. Persons with incomes below \$16,000, or \$19,000 for a couple, may qualify for financial "extra help" under Part D.

StateWide has begun a monitoring program to deal with glitches, misinformation, fraud, and abuse in the confusing maze of plans and choices confronting beneficiaries, family members, pharmacists, and longterm care facilities. Lani concluded that we need "one card, one plan, one price" for prescription drugs, and to allow Medicare to negotiate drug prices like the Veterans Administration already does. We should support expansion of EPIC to disabled New Yorkers under 65 and a state drug discount card allowing everyone to benefit from EPIC-negotiated prices.

*Contact StateWide at 212.316.9393. And learn more at the New York Network for Action on Medicare & Social Security/NYNAMSS meeting on "The Future of Medicare: An Advocacy Agenda" Friday, December 16, 10 am, 200 East 5<sup>th</sup> Street at Third Avenue (Cooper Square).*

### Disability Issues and Perspectives

Gray Panther Gloria Korecki chaired the November meeting, reminding us "What benefits the disabled benefits the elderly and the young." Nora O'Brien of the Brookdale Foundation spoke about her report on the hundreds of older and disabled people left for three days at Ground Zero after the 9.11, 2001 World Trade Center attack. Events in New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina repeated the pattern. There was no coordinator for the elderly and disabled, no arrangements for their transportation, health care, pets, or meals--FEMA learned nothing. Even today there is no New York City plan for persons requiring extra help. Everyone should keep their own "go-bag" of emergency supplies and personal information, including an out-of-town telephone contact.

*Nora's 5-page report "Emergency Preparedness for Older People" is available from the International Longevity Center, 60 East 86<sup>th</sup> Street, NY 10028/212.288.1468/www.ilcusa.org.*

Jean Ryan of Disabled in Action ([www.disabledinaction.org](http://www.disabledinaction.org)) and editor of the DIA newsletter spoke about transportation issues, including her Taxis for All Campaign lobbying with the City Council to make all new and replaced taxis accessible to wheelchair/scooter users, and her efforts for accessible bathrooms at City Hall. She also shared her advocacy philosophy: Don't just gripe, see the big picture, be part of a group. Choose problems you are passionate about, and be willing to learn. Power is something you take; it is not given to you. Communicate with the other side, offer solutions, make specific demands. Keep a paper trail, write letters, take notes on meetings & phone calls, take photos. Use publicity, write letters to editors, picket & leaflet. Be persistent—it might take years.

*Signs, mostly handmade, at the massive United for Peace and Justice September 24 demonstration in Washington DC protesting the War in Iraq included these:*

Practice Safe Politics  
It's ALL about the Oil  
You've Stopped the Economy, Now Stop the War  
Paz & Justicia  
If it's natural to kill, why are men trained to do it?  
Anything War can do Peace can do better  
Compassionate Impeachment  
I want dumb bombs and a smart President  
A Marine for Peace  
We Used to Impeach Liars  
From Drunk to Dictator in 15 Years  
Alto a la Guerra/Stop the War  
Stop the HeeHaw Jihad  
Too Many Dead  
We Support the Soldiers, Not the War  
Republicans for Impeachment  
Which is Worse? Screwing an Intern or Screwing the County?  
Evict Congress  
Very, Very Brave with Other People's Blood  
Feel Safer Now?  
We are not disturbing the Peace—We are disturbing the War  
We mourn all victims of this war  
Quagmire Accomplished  
The Rapture is Not an Exit Strategy  
Impeach the Leech—Our Big Mistake  
War = Terrorism with a Bigger Budget

Roger Sanjek  
New York Gray Panthers

**NETWORK REPORT Issue #4**

NETWORK REPORT, the newsletter of the New York Gray Panthers, began in 1973 and was published continuously through 2000. After the "new" NYGP network was reorganized in 2003, it was revived in December 2004. Editor, Roger Sanjek [rsanjek@earthlink.net](mailto:rsanjek@earthlink.net)