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Gray Panthers
NYC

2025 GRAY PANTHERS NYC ANNUAL IMPACT REPORT

Local ♦ National ♦ Global



A Year of Action, Advocacy, and Intergenerational Power



2025 was a transformational year for Gray Panthers NYC—a year defined by new partnerships, bold public presence, growing leadership, and continued commitment to dismantling ageism, strengthening intergenerational bonds, and advancing social justice locally, nationally, and globally. As we celebrate **five years of Transformation Tuesdays**, expand our network, and continue the legacy of Maggie Kuhn into a new century, we are grateful to each member, volunteer, partner, and supporter who helped make this impact possible.

Board Expansion

This year, our leadership grew with the addition of two extraordinary new Board Members: Alex Eshelman and Jenine Ferrari. Their vision and energy are already shaping our next chapter.



Alex Eshelman

A champion for intergenerational dialogue and creative community engagement.



Jenine Ferrari

A dynamic advocate whose work strengthens our capacity to fight ageism and amplify diverse voices.

Major Announcements



Help Us Get the “Age & Youth in Action” Patch in Every State!

The Age & Youth in Action patch—created through a partnership between Gray Panthers NYC and the Girl Scouts of Greater New York—celebrates intergenerational connection, empathy, and advocacy. Scouts who earn the patch learn firsthand how older and younger generations can work together to make their communities stronger, kinder, and more just.



Now, we're on a mission to take this movement nationwide!

Scouts in every borough have earned the Age & Youth in Action Patch in Greater New York City, engaging in intergenerational activities and learning about age justice. This collaboration continues to expand nationally.

New Partnerships & Collaborations



Openly Gray: New Logo & Identity

Partnering with **Openly Gray**, we introduced a refreshed Gray Panthers logo and visual identity— bold, modern, and unmistakably proud. This evolving initiative continues to serve as a rallying cry for visibility, dignity, and age justice.

FY Eye PSA Campaign

Our partnership with FY Eye brought aging issues into public spaces across New York City. Through digital screens and posters, our message reached thousands: Older people are essential. Their wisdom matters. Ageism harms us all.



Clarivate Partnership

Clarivate, a British-American data analytics company, licensed selected Transformation Tuesday webinars, helping distribute our content to a wider audience and affirming the national value of our programming. [See more here.](#)

Rising Leaders Awards



Our annual Rising Leaders Award honored remarkable young advocates advancing intergenerational collaboration, justice, and social change. This year's recipients demonstrated courage, creativity, and commitment to making New York—and the world—more equitable for all ages.



**TRANSFORMATION
TUESDAYS**

An Educational Webinar Series sponsored by Gray Panthers NYC



**Meet the Winners of
2025 Gerson Award
for Rising Leaders**

August 26, 2025, 2 pm ET



Thank you!
Jill Gerson, President,
Shannah-Ley Foundation

Celebrating Maggie Kuhn's 120th Birthday



In 2025, we honored what would have been Maggie Kuhn's 120th birthday. Highlights included:

- A public celebration and social campaign uplifting Maggie's visionary message
- A tribute from Senator Ron Wyden recognizing her enduring impact
- Stories shared by longtime members on how Maggie continues to inspire their activism



In her memory, we continue to advocate for a more equitable and inclusive society for all ages energized by the challenges ahead and inspired by our collective potential. Her legacy remains our compass.

Five Years of Transformation Tuesdays



Launched in 2021, Transformation Tuesdays has become Gray Panthers NYC's signature platform for learning, dialogue, and action. In 2025, we hosted an extraordinary lineup of thinkers, activists, and leaders, including:

- Ashton Applewhite
- Allison Cook
- Margaret Gullette
- Diane Hessian
- Raza Mirza
- Amy Paul
- Katherine Pettus
- Miryam Rabner
- Ashton Stewart
- Jack York

TRANSFORMATION TUESDAYS



Topics ranged from dismantling age bias in tech and media to end-of-life care, intergenerational community building, veterans' issues, ethical wills, housing justice, and more. Five years later, our community remains vibrant, engaged, and growing. Thank you for being part of it.

Local



No Kings March



Gray Panthers NYC marched in the NYC “No Kings” Democracy March, standing visibly and proudly against authoritarianism and for human rights. Our contingent—older adults, students, and allies—marched together in solidarity.



National



National Consumer Voice Conference



Board member and Secretary Meg LaPorte represented GPNYC at the National Consumer Voice's convening, engaging directly with long-term care residents, advocates, and national leaders. [Read more.](#)



“Carrie on the Move!”



Carrie Lejedal, Vice President GPNYC, represents GPNYC at the Live Oak Project in its campaign to implement Connected Communities, carrying Maggie's banner on long-term care reform. She organized the inaugural Connected Communities Summit in St. Louis (photo below)



and traveled to Washington DC, where she met with Senator Ron Wyden (right). Carrie is helping to shape a growing, people-powered movement for dignity and justice. [Read more.](#)



Transformation Tuesday



In 2025, our conversations spanned healthcare, storytelling, education, caregiving, veterans' services, and the power of age-diverse collaboration. From exploring palliative care and intergenerational classrooms to meeting authors like Diane Hesson and Margaret Morganroth Gullette, each session deepened our shared understanding of what it means to age—and act—with purpose. All our webinars are recorded and available on our [YouTube channel](#) and [website](#) at no cost. Please share!

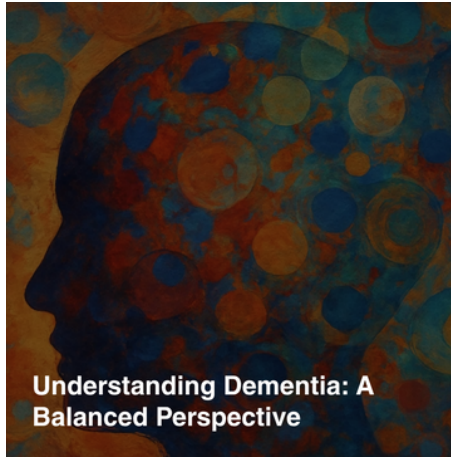
- Jan:** [Combatting Ageism in Healthcare: Palliative Care Explained](#)
- Feb:** [Vintage Voices: A Century of Life Stories](#)
- Mar:** [Inside the Intergenerational Classroom](#)
- Apr:** [Hot Topics from Emerging Professionals in Aging Services](#)
- May:** [Our Common Ground, Meet the Author: Diane Hesson](#)
- Jun:** [American Eldercide, Meet the Author Margaret Gullette](#)
- Jul:** [Partners in Caregiving with Lori Porter and Jenine Ferrari](#)
- Aug:** [Meet the Winners of 2025 Gerson Award for Rising Leaders](#)
- Sep:** [The Power of Age-Diversity in Dismantling Ageism](#)
- Oct:** [The Future of Long-Term Care at the VA for Veterans of All Ages](#)
- Nov:** [Legacy Letters: What Will You Leave Behind?](#)

SAVE THE DATE! January 27, 2026 Transformation Tuesday:
Vision Into Action: Intergenerational Work of Our Rising Leaders 13

Gray Matters Blog Highlights



Housing's Double Whammy for People with Disabilities



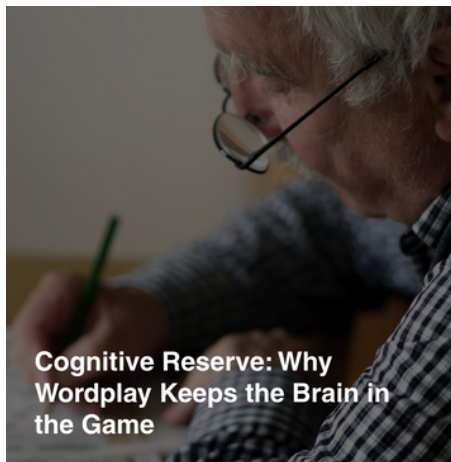
Understanding Dementia: A Balanced Perspective



The Challenges of Family Caregiving: a Life-Juggling Act



How the Government Shutdown Affects Older Persons



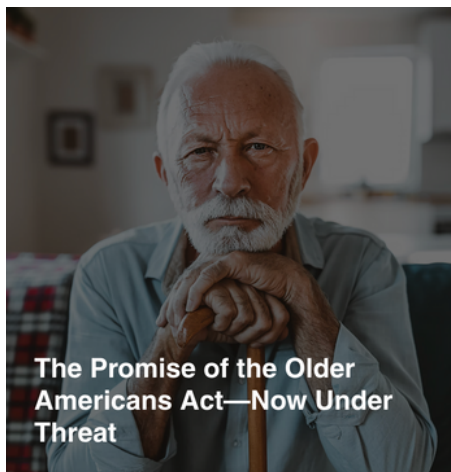
Cognitive Reserve: Why Wordplay Keeps the Brain in the Game



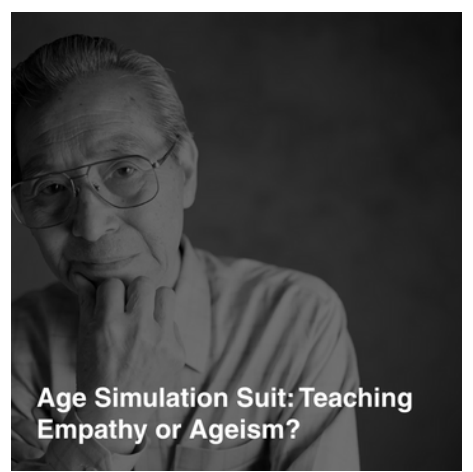
The Difference Between Aging and Disease (And Why It Matters)



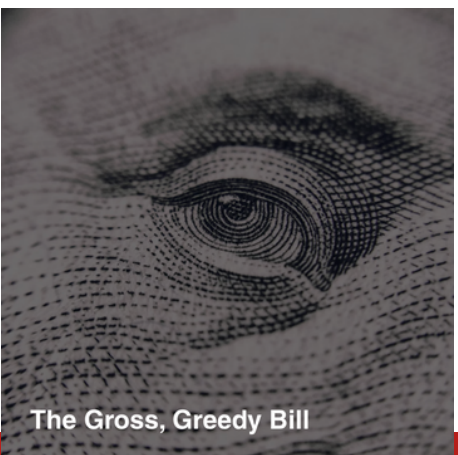
Human Rights: A Subject Neglected in School



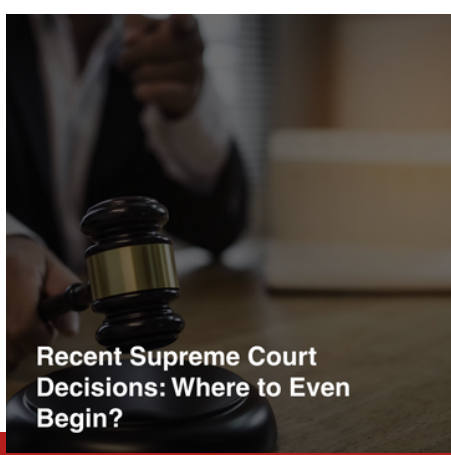
The Promise of the Older Americans Act—Now Under Threat



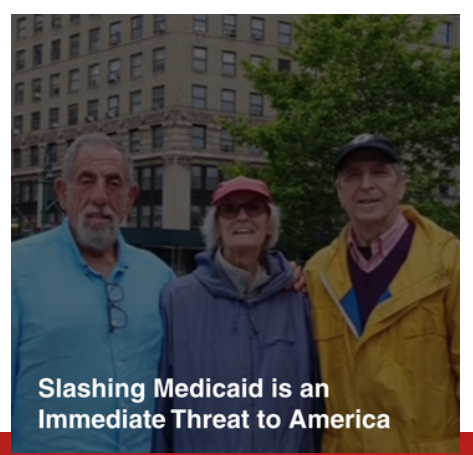
Age Simulation Suit: Teaching Empathy or Ageism?



The Gross, Greedy Bill



Recent Supreme Court Decisions: Where to Even Begin?



Slashing Medicaid is an Immediate Threat to America

Global



Global Highlights from 2025

UN Stakeholder Group on Ageing

Gray Panthers NYC continued its global engagement through active participation in the Stakeholder Group on Ageing, promoting older persons' rights worldwide.

See: Gray Panthers at the UN: Leading the Global Fight for Age Justice

See: The Power of Intergenerational Action: Remarks from Jack Kupferman at the UN Youth Forum.



World Social Summit – Doha, Qatar

Chief Catalyst Officer Jack Kupferman presented at a WHO-organized “Solutions Session” during the World Social Summit in Doha, Qatar. Jack highlighted grassroots, scalable models that place older people at the center of community-based change.

Read [Jack’s remarks](#).



Recognizing Our Community



Outstanding Volunteer – 2025



Gilbert Sabater

Gilbert's leadership, reliability, and tireless commitment made an extraordinary difference this year. From event support to strategic planning to joyful community-building, Gilbert embodies the spirit of service.

Outstanding Intern – 2025



Isabel Postelnek

Isabel brought creativity, research expertise, and boundless enthusiasm to GPNYC. Her contributions to organizing events, writing, and outreach enriched our work immensely. Isabel was instrumental in developing our “Age and Youth in Action” patch, which offers Girl Scouts an opportunity to connect meaningfully with older adults while working toward a common goal: ending ageism and building a more inclusive, compassionate society.

GPNYC Shop: Wear the Movement



Show your Gray Panthers NYC pride and spark conversations wherever you go! Every purchase helps support intergenerational advocacy and community initiatives. Visit our shop to wear your values—and help spread the message that age justice is for everyone.

Shop Here!





Special Thanks

We are deeply grateful to everyone who contributed this year. Your generosity fuels our programming, advocacy, and outreach. A special thank-you to:

Dr. JILL GERSON, The Shannah-Ley Foundation

whose sustained support makes so much of our intergenerational and anti-ageism work possible.

In Kind: *Openly Gray* - Elizabeth Hall, Lee St. James, Matthew Thornhill

Thank you also to:

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Judith Cohen
Marian Douglas
Alexander Eshelman
Mark Faughn
Jenine Ferrari
Kurt Fliegel
C Fuller

Amanda Gajdowski
Nancy Galt
Margaret Graham
Stella Grey
Brooke Hollowell
Robin E Halman
Marielle Higler
Laura Kaupas
Wendl Kornfeld
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Carrie Lejedal
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Jennifer Sanchez
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Howard Shaker
Lawrence S Smith
Laura Sollod
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Brenda Tanner
Karen Taylor
Trask Family
Kathryn Turnas
Nora Weiss
Andrew Willner
Sasha Yan
Frances Zainoeddin



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Gilbert Sabater, Drew Velting

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Randy Block, Chair, National Council of GP Networks, Michigan



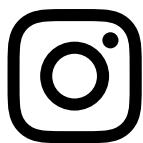
About Us

The Gray Panthers are a series of multigenerational 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.

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Gray Panthers NYC

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