

## GRAY PANTHERS JOIN IN LOW INCOME HOUSING PROTEST

A May 8th demonstration at the County Board of Supervisors included the handing over of housekeys to the Supervisors by low-income families priced out of the housing market. They were protesting a deal between the County and the local Building Industry. I (Linda Roberts) and another Gray Panther, Terry Terry, joined in the protest for affordable housing.

Gray Panthers have worked side by side with OWL, Sierra Club, Loaves & Fishes, and Californians for Disability Rights toward an affordable housing ordinance in Sacramento County.

While there are State and federal programs to fund low income (80% of the regional median) and very low income (50% of regional median), there were no such funding programs for extremely low income Sacramento folks like myself who make 30% of the median income. Included in this category are many of those living on Social Security only and all of those living on SSI. Disabled folks, people of color and single mothers often have lower incomes. We were so proud when Sacramento County was the first in the nation to pass an ordinance creating housing for the poorest of the poor.

The county attorney stated the housing advocates would have to be consulted before any such deal is finalized. In the category include many of those living on Social Security only and all of those living on SSI. Disabled folks, people of color and single mothers often have lower incomes. By making this back room deal, affordable homes are taken away from working families to put money in the pocket of big developers.

**Contact** your County Supervisors to voice opposition to backroom deals with the building industry. Those of you who live in other counties can work to get your supervisors to pass a similar affordable housing ordinance! Need more information? Contact leaders of Sacramento Housing Alliance at (916) 442-1198.

*Submitted by Linda Roberts*



## FEDERAL REAL ID ACT MEETING HELD IN DAVIS

The Department of Homeland Security conducted a Town Hall meeting at UC Davis, scheduled to be the nation's only open meeting on REAL ID. The Act, as proposed, would require every California driver license and identification card holder to appear in a Dept. of Motor Vehicle office in person to be recertified. Individuals would be required to bring a certified birth certificate, an unexpired U.S. passport, proof of social security numbers and proof of address documents. The REAL ID Act, signed by Bush in 2005, sets national standards for driver's licenses and identification cards, and is scheduled to take effect May 11, 2008.

## Supreme Court Rules on Global Warming: EPA Has the Authority to Act

On April 2, the Supreme Court delivered a big victory in the continued effort to curb global warming. In a 5-4 decision, the high court ruled that carbon dioxide and other heat-trapping emissions are "air pollutants" under the federal Clean Air Act. You can get more information at [www.psr.org](http://www.psr.org). Physicians for Social Responsibility has grave concerns about the public health threats due to global warming.

## GREAT WORK, RICHARD!

Thanks to Richard Seymans, member of our Gray Panthers' Transportation committee and of the Sacramento Mobility Coalition, for being the presenter at the Older Women's League meeting in April. Gray Panthers are proud of their work on transportation issues and Richard represents us well!!

### Warning Signs of Stroke for your refrigerator:

- Sudden numbness or weakness one side of face, arm or leg
- Sudden confusion, trouble speaking or understanding
- Sudden trouble seeing in one or both eyes
- Sudden trouble with balance, coordination, walking, dizziness
- Sudden severe headache without known cause

**Call 911 immediately if you experience any of these symptoms!\***

## NEWS FROM CONGRESSWOMAN MATSUI

Congresswoman Doris O. Matsui, issued the following statement after voting to override the President's veto of the Iraq Accountability Act:

"With his veto last night, the President rejected a responsible and necessary change of direction in Iraq. And in doing so, he disregarded the opinion of the overwhelming majority of the American people, as well as of a bipartisan majority of both the House and Senate. This responsible bill fully funds the needs of our troops in the field, while also providing a path for bringing the war to a close. Today's vote to override the President's veto was unsuccessful, but my colleagues and I remain committed to changing U.S. policy in Iraq and bringing our troops home."

## Democratic House, Senate Heads Introduce Bills for "Medicare for All"

Edward Kennedy (D-Mass) and John Dingell (D-Mich), chairmen of two key House and Senate committees, have introduced legislation to expand Medicare to those under age 65 to provide younger Americans access to quality, affordable health care at less cost than under the current health care system.

Opposition from special interests that profit from the current health care system will make it difficult to pass legislation.

Most of the costs, as high as \$138 billion a year, would be offset by reduced administrative costs, adoption of electronic medical records, and additional preventive services and management of chronic diseases. The federal government would bear \$600 billion a year in additional costs currently paid by individuals and businesses, but this cost would be offset by payroll taxes and general revenues and the bill would not add to the federal budget deficit.

The bill would allow individuals to enroll in private health plans, and they would be able to choose their health care providers.

"The nation's health care has reached such a crisis point that the American people are looking for bold action," Kennedy said. "Our experience last year in adopting health reforms in Massachusetts shows that this can happen. Political leaders, business representatives, health experts and average citizens all came together around a health reform plan."

## OFFICERS AND STEERING COMMITTEE

**Chairperson:** Joan Lee 916-332-5980

**Secretary (Interim):** Pat Naylor

**Treasurer:** Lola Young

**Program Coordinator, Medicare Part D grant,**  
Margie Metzler

**Environmental:** Dr. Karl Stoffers

**Disabled Issues:** Terry Terry

**Historian:** Marge Cumming

**Hospitality:** Joyce Westergaard

**Housing Issues:** Linda Roberts and Karen Raasch

**Labor/Wage Issues:** Nell Ranta

**Newsletter Asst. Editors:** John Bernier and

Betty Cooper Youngren

**SS/Medicare Advisor:** Peter D'Anna

**Transportation:** Doris Sanford, Dale Kooyman

**Members at Large:** Edie Poole, Pat Naylor,

Jean Mellberg, Betty Merle, Judy Bietz

**Computer Assistant:** Margie Metzler

**Webmaster:** Margie Metzler

**Gray Panthers Annual Dues are \$30 for individuals and \$35 for families. This includes newsletter, membership in Gray Panthers National and Gray Panthers California.**

*If new members choose to join in coming months, they may pay the full amount or choose from the following monthly pro-rated schedule for 2006.*

| <u>Month</u> | <u>Individual</u>           | <u>Family</u> |
|--------------|-----------------------------|---------------|
| January      | \$20.00                     | \$20.50       |
| February     | 17.50                       | 18.00         |
| March        | 15.00                       | 15.50         |
| April        | 12.50                       | 13.00         |
| May          | 10.00                       | 10.50         |
| June         | 7.50                        | 8.00          |
| July         | 5.00                        | 5.50          |
| August       | Both \$3.00 + \$30 for 2007 |               |

**I WANT TO JOIN GRAY PANTHERS SACRAMENTO!!!**

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone** \_\_\_\_\_

**E-mail Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Membership: Regular: \$30 or pro-rated amt.** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Family/35 or pro-rated amt.** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Newsletter Subscription only, \$15** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL ENCLOSED** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\*Note: It is not necessary to pay for the newsletter if you join as a full member! Make any check to Gray Panthers of Sacramento and send to PO Box 19438, Sacramento, CA 95819.

**REMEMBER THAT LACK OF FUNDS WILL NOT DETER BELONGING TO OUR ORGANIZATION!!**