

Rise and Resist General Meeting - Zoom Edition - 3.5.2024

Rise and Resist Contact Information

- Website: www.riseandresist.org
- Email list signup <http://eepurl.com/cCzq1X>
- Twitter: www.twitter.com/RiseandResistNY
- Facebook: www.facebook.com/RiseandResistNYC/
- Instagram: www.instagram.com/risenresistnyc/
- General email: info@riseandresist.org
- Press email: media@riseandresist.org
- Meetings: Every Tuesday at 7pm on Zoom. To sign up for the Zoom meeting click [here](#).

Facilitators: Karin and Livvie **Note Taker:** Alex

For non RAR announcements or to add other items to the agenda:
Email rar.facilitation@gmail.com before 3PM on Monday!

DONATE TO RISE AND RESIST: <https://www.riseandresist.org/donate>

Wendy's action email for this week:

<https://us20.campaign-archive.com/?u=b0ff5ba7f2c72c38a9df9e0e5&id=f6969cad87>

GOOD NEWS.

- trump is having trouble coming up with a bond in the fraud case.
- Allen Weisselberg pleads guilty to perjury for lying under oath in this fraud case.
- Kristen Sinema says she is stepping down. Donations flowing into Ruben Gallego since the news.

UPCOMING ACTIONS

Thursday, March 7, 5PM-6PM Immigration Vigil in Times Square Subway Concourse

- We get very good reception.
- We will focus on Mayor Adams: people should not be sleeping on the streets.
- In future we will shift to include the positives of immigrants coming to this country.

Friday, March 8, 9AM City Hall - Rally For A Close Rikers Budget: Enter from Broadway or Park Row

- The expectation to build other jails is now being described as "not real."
- Freedom Agenda has led this action on the steps of City Hall.
- Action precedes the City Council Criminal Justice meeting. Demand: Reduce bloated Department of Corrections budget.
- Activists will go to the Criminal Justice meeting
- "New York City runs the most richly funded (and richly staffed) jail system in the country while consistently delivering the worst results. And yet this year the Mayor has plans to maintain the Department of Corrections' inflated budget while cutting funding for

alternatives to incarceration, housing, healthcare, education, employment, and youth services. This proposed budget is a recipe for keeping Rikers open. Elected leaders must utilize this year's budget process to invest in community resources that will improve safety and reduce incarceration and get Rikers closed.

From Freedom Agenda's Ryan Acquotta.

- URL for registration: bit.ly/close-rikers-budget

Wednesday, March 13, 1PM-2PM No Dictators/No Immunity at Trump Tower

- Actions Committee thought it would be good to not wait till the trial (in late April) to put more messaging out.
- NO DICTATORS banner,
- Messaging on who dictators are, why they should not be immune.
- Opportunity to try out messaging before the trial starts.
- Opportunity to educate without preaching.
- Trump Tower is a small organization, and when we are there, they know. Good for us to be out there.
- Question about who we are affecting, trying to reach.
 - We try to talk through the media and our photographs.
 - Bear witness and say the truth, stand out in public with that. We work on that in Actions.
 - We stand as a beacon for other people who cannot be there, don't dare.
 - We were told by a person in SFO that "we are relentless!"
 - If we talk about why we do it, it helps motivate us to do it.
 - Important for us to step back and do a check-in about what we do.

25 minute Discussion: The Supreme Court strikes down invoking the 14th Amendment; drags their feet on the Immunity case.

- "I never expected any state to get this far." This keeps the issue up there.
- The silver lining is that the justices did not agree at all with trump's statement that he is not an insurrectionist. Even the most conservative justices.
- The court will not save us. We must get the vote out and win the election.
- How can we leverage every action to get the vote out? Neither candidate is great, but we must face the alternatives.
- We participated last year in Expand the Court, Change the Court. We can do that again.
- We must keep hammering home how horrible trump is, and that he is running to stay out of jail.
- Jennifer Rubin had a great article in NYT/WAPO? today on how trump is screwed. (Note taker could not find it)
 - The DOJ is going to get the clock ticking during prime campaign months. All the Jan 6th stuff will be in the news every day. The court is dragging their feet, but they can't drag their feet enough to prevent this from showing up during the elections.
 - The more people see him during the height of the election, the more they'll be reminded of the daily horror of his first term.
- The risk of third-party voters.
- The news has little to say that is positive about Biden. Folks in red states are all in for trump.

- In court statements, 3 justices spoke about “oath breaking insurrectionists.” We should use this message.
- “Seed the vote” is working on the primaries for the Squad; people can donate to the other members who we cannot directly work for.
- Discussion of messaging around Biden’s policy on Israel vs trump’s messaging:
 - Trump’s is much worse.
 - Policies are horrendous on both sides. We can’t focus on their Israel-Gaza policy.
 - We should focus on “Dictator” vs “non-Dictator.”
 - Let’s use buttons, which invite discussion. They stop business as usual for a second.
- We should take the court up on its ruling: it is up to Congress to decide who is an insurrectionist.
 - Let’s have some legislation about who IS an insurrectionist. And how DO you invoke the 14th amendment?
- We must work with young people. Very difficult for young people who do not know how bad things could be if trump gets another term.
- Young people hate the argument that you are wasting your vote; hate the argument of the lesser of two evils. They are thinking of voting for a third party.
 - At Students Vote Justice, we are working on “Pragmatic Voting.”
 - We welcome ideas, which you can send to Sandy:slradoff@gmail.com
 - Given what’s happening in Gaza (loss of moral high ground for Biden), the hysteria around immigration (even among so-called Dems like Adams) and people voting their pocketbooks, we need to make a strong case about why Biden is still far better than Trump on so many fundamental issues (healthcare, bodily autonomy, inclusivity, unions, public education, climate emergency, preventing Far right activist Supreme Court and state court from getting even worse, etc.) And, even if it’s just a defensive strategy to vote for Biden, the threat of fascism is real. Many youth are justifiably cynical, so we need to campaign on specific issues that will make life and death differences clear.
 - “Strategic voting.”
 - “Voting is a chess game not a valentine.”
 - Our electoral system is DESIGNED to prevent the success of third-party candidates, unlike in Europe.
- This is what the other guy can do to the country. Project 2025.
 - Project 2025 gives us a means to give young people a glimpse of what could be under a conservative government. We are working with 18 of our interns to launch a social media campaign and they are really angry and afraid of what could be if this Project gets implemented.
 - <https://www.stopthecoup2025.org>

ELECTIONS COMMITTEE

- Jamaal Bowman (Lower Westchester, COOP City in Bx) needs signatures on petitions to get on the ballot. We must have extras. George Latimer, his opponent funded by AIPAC, has plenty of money to hire lawyers to comb through and throw out signatures. Ilona Du Verge is our most direct contact: ilona@bowman.com

- Sign up for petitioning for Bowman:
<https://secure.ngpvan.com/p/8S7fwCnggkShGpk9eM14Ug2>
- See if some of our JVP members will work for Bowman and other members of the Squad. Contact Jane Hirshman.
- The next step to get out people is April 2 Presidential Primary. The point/ the message we want to get out is to use our democracy muscle. Use your democracy muscle. Go out to the polls. Get people out to vote. Late June state legislative primaries.
- Elections committee meets Weds at 5 pm. If interested, contact Livvie at Elizabethmann.livvie@gmail.com

REPORT BACKS

Feb 28, 24-hour Vigil at City Hall to demand a **Ceasefire resolution** and **other Gaza demonstrations attended.**

- 65 Cities have passed resolutions have called for an immediate and permanent ceasefire. We need 27 CC members to pass it. It started with 11; then it went up to 17.
- We were there from 5-6 pm. The dry-cleaning bags saved the letters. And we got so many photos because of the reflections. Outward facing. Lots of people coming off Brooklyn Bridge gave us thumbs up. The picture of our CEASE FIRE letters was the head photo for the organizers.
- Speeches rather diluted it, nonetheless it was very powerful.
- **Call your council member to sign on to this measure.** Erik Botcher has not signed on.
- What is going on is a horror. Whatever one can do one must do. Thank you.
- Went to the Saturday action from Union Square to WSP. Despite the pouring rain, the whole park was packed.
- **Action Weds 3/5 If not now and JVP people holding a shiva at Javits Center where the ADL will be holding a conference. 7:30 to 2 pm.**
 - o Jared Kushner will be getting an award for his great work (!!)
 - o Contact Wendy for logistics info or marshaling offer: wendybrandes@gmail.com
 - o Shiva for Ceasefire early shift meet-up is at 7:30 AM tomorrow at Bella Abzug park near the Javits Center. <https://www.mobilize.us/ifnotnow/event/610180/>
- There will be multiple shivas – one at Golda Meir Center.
- **Recognition of Aaron Bushnell US Mission in front of 44th Street near to UN Plaza 4 pm 3/15**
 - o Aaron Bushnell Immolated himself in protest of US genocidal policies in Gaza.

March 2, NYFAR at Planned Parenthood

- Three RaR'ers went. Julie, Wendy, Jamie.
- Anger at the fact that we are not allowed to disrupt, but PP allows the Christo Fascists (11 of them showed up) free rein.
 - o One of PP members scolded Julie for blocking people from coming into the clinic when she was playing one on one for 11 people.
 - o PP is very corporate people. They suggest writing to your senators.
 - o They and the Dems. raise money off people who are anti-abortion.
- NYC for abortion rights people are gathering info on the experiences of people who seek abortion. This may be useful.
 - o History: the teenage punch a Nazi people would attack the anti-abortion people; there were several arrests. They had a destructive effect.

- o Difference in tone has changed b/c of the police presence.

March 4, Rikers Vigil 5PM-6PM Times Square Station

- Two Freedom Agenda folks and one rabbi came.
- Smallish gathering but people were very responsive. And we leafletted.
- Freedom Agenda sent out word to their contacts, and that is why people showed up.
- The true diversity of people walking by. A lot of people are happy we are there.

Truth Tuesdays at FOX every Tuesday at 12noon 47th St.& 6th Ave.

- Pouring Rain day 8 people showed up plus 2 photographers: Gina Randazzo and Laura Brett
- We are honing our messaging with cheap card stock posters, and then we will use the best ones.
- The relentlessness quality pays off. The two photographers knew we would be there.

RISE AND RESIST