

## Rise and Resist General Meeting - Zoom Edition - 2.9.2021

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### Rise and Resist Contact Information

- Website: [www.riseandresist.org](http://www.riseandresist.org)
  - Email list signup <http://eepurl.com/cCzq1X>
  - Twitter: [www.twitter.com/RiseandResistNY](https://www.twitter.com/RiseandResistNY)
  - Facebook: [www.facebook.com/RiseandResistNYC/](https://www.facebook.com/RiseandResistNYC/)
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  - Press email: [media@riseandresist.org](mailto:media@riseandresist.org)
  - Meetings: Every Tuesday at 7pm on Zoom. To sign up for the Zoom meeting [click here](#)
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**Facilitators:** Jay and Jennifer      **Notes:** Alexandra

### Good News:

Biden Admin:

- Expands Refugee Admission Programs which rescinds Trump policies on limiting admissions and vetting.
- Directs agencies to ensure LGBTQI refugees and asylum seekers have equal access to protections.
- Revoked Trump's order to separate families at the border.
- Stopped construction on the wall.
- 56<sup>th</sup> Street by trump Tower is no longer a blocked zone; "it's our street, and our city."
- The Senate voted that holding impeachment trial is constitutional.
- Cuomo signed the "walking while trans" repeal!

### Report Backs:

#### Friday 2/5 - Supporting Nupol Kiazolu at BLM demo at Gracie Mansion

Jay: Nupol K formerly with BLM, is now with Strategies for Black Lives. Police have been harassing her family.

- Her brother swiped a friend into the subway; police arrested him many charges.
- Dropped fare beating charges, kept Disorderly Conduct.
- 6+ RaR'ers present. About 30 more people. Excellent speakers. We learned that Carl Schurz Park is never blocked off for daily rallies, but they blocked the Park today.

Discussion: Nupal is excellent, heartfelt, a terrific activist; sometimes provoking the police (pigs, fuck you). Some discomfort expressed in meeting as well as support.

**Friday 2/5 - Say Their Names cancelled due to snow banks on the plaza. Next action planned for Friday 2/12 at 96&Broadway at 4:30PM, weather permitting**

Jenny: Please sign on to Ann Shirazi's email in which she writes biographies of people.  
shirazny@verizon.net

Every voice has a history. Never again means Never Again.

It is about White Supremacy; we need to hold space and ground.

**Monday 2/8 Supporting Fortune Society, RAPP, Halt Solitary demo on COVID vaccine access in NY State prisons and jails. At Edgecombe Correctional Facility on Edgecombe and 163rd.**

Donna, Robert:

- Event was live streamed.
- Sponsored by HALT Solitary, VOCAL, Fortune Society.  
<https://fortunesociety.org/history/>
- Good size of group; hard to get there. Snow. Very cold.
- Press presence; WBAI
- well organized. Jenny watched the Live Stream. Very moving and important.
- Discussion: RAPP focuses on the city and the state, not Federal.

Jay: There was a recent BLM action about Edwin Segarra, detained in Federal prison for 10 years with no trial. Given a vaccine after positive dx. Died in prison.

<https://www.nydailynews.com/new-york/ny-edwin-segarra-inmate-mdc-brooklyn-covid19-dead-vaccinated-20210208-ovtvqfmwzfcd7drjoyq6zqluyq-story.html>

**Upcoming Actions:**

**Impeachment Trial - CONVICT TRUMP - upcoming photo/demo Wednesday 2/10, 12 noon 40 Foley Square,**

Also the possibility of taking out banner this weekend.

Jamie: this was rescheduled from yesterday because of snow; primarily a photo op.

Quite a few RaR members are able to participate in Weds action.

**Thoughts about a Saturday action.**

- Many people said yes.
- Location will be planned tomorrow in Actions.
- Discussion about the Impeachment trial
  - People are encouraged to call family and friends in Red States: call reps telling them to convict
  - Important to have the trial and call for conviction.
  - There will be a press notice following the Weds action with the goal of floating images into the media.
  - After the 13 minute video, trump's lawyers had to rewrite their defense;
  - Republican video ended with Rashida Tlaib standing against a No one is Above the Law sign.
  - Only way to prosecute an ex-president on actions while president is through Congress

- o Jenny: really hard to use the law for people who do not believe in law.

**Beds Not Bodybags - Monday 2/15 at noon at Lenox Hill Hospital 77<sup>th</sup> between Park and Lex.**

- o Mark: Hospitals should not be primarily between 14 and 96 on East Side of Manhattan.
- o Manhattan has the highest number of hospital beds per person of any county in the nation.
- o Northwell proposing a new luxury tower. Increase capacity from 450 to 475 beds.
- o Goal to contrast number of beds per 1000 in Manhattan from other counties.
- o Northwell is largest conglomerate in NY State. There is one Northwell unit in Forest Hills.
- o We will not be using body bags (in front of hospital)
- o About 10 members said they could attend.
- o Discussion:
  - o luxury healthcare tourism
  - o For profit hospital system is very dysfunctional.
  - o Healthcare outcomes are demonstrated to be much better in countries with public hospitals.

**Upcoming:**

**Parole Justice is Racial Justice: Black History Month Virtual Advocacy Day on February 16, beginning at 9 am.**

**Donna**

The passage of the Elder Parole and Fair and Timely Parole bills will collectively ensure that every person in NY State prison has a fair and meaningful opportunity to return home during the course of their incarceration. They will prevent aging, sickness, and death in prisons, reunite families and communities, and help to uproot NY's racist criminal legal system. Join in community, meet with legislators, and promote the Elder and Fair and Timely Parole bills. RSVP to attend at [bit.ly/feb-16-advocacy-day](http://bit.ly/feb-16-advocacy-day).

**Immigration Vigil messaging**

Ray and Jamie: We worked on messaging that was inclusive to all groups:

**A Path to Citizenship for All**

- o We wanted to include DACA recipients, people who don't have asylum yet, people who are undocumented.
- o Nicole Maliakatakos
- o Working on a flyer with potential actions people can take:
  - o vigil opportunity and info sharing
- o Location not selected yet. More updates; possibly Staten Island Ferry Terminal
- o Discussion of Maliakatakos
  - o Ray: NM may be moveable, though she was very evasive during her campaign about what she stood for. During her campaign she played up her immigrant roots. But her positions are very anti-immigrant.

- o Stu: redistricting coming up, and her constituency may change to lower Manhattan. May make her more malleable.

### **Elections Committee update + Sunday 2/14 Schumer/Filibuster demo; For the People's Act.**

Sandy: We met today. We need to continue pressuring Schumer

- o For the People's Act: HR 1, S1 introduced by Rep. Sarbanes
- o Provisions (drawn from Rep. Sarbanes' website)
- **Improve Access** – H.R. 1 expands access to the ballot box by taking aim at institutional barriers to voting, including cumbersome voter registration systems, disenfranchisement and limited voting hours. H.R. 1 will create automatic voter registration across the country, ensure that individuals who have completed felony sentences have their full voting rights restored, expand early voting and enhance absentee voting, simplify voting by mail, reduce long lines and wait times for voters and modernize America's voting system.
- **Promote Integrity** – H.R. 1 commits Congress to build the record necessary to restore the Voting Rights Act, as embodied by the House-passed H.R. 4. It also commits Congress to deliver full congressional voting rights and self-government for the residents of the District of Columbia, which only statehood can provide, prohibits voter roll purges like those seen in Ohio, Georgia and elsewhere and ends partisan gerrymandering to prevent politicians from picking their voters.
- **Ensure Security** – H.R. 1 ensures that American elections are decided by American voters, without interference, by enhancing federal support for voting system security, particularly with paper ballots and also by increasing oversight of election system vendors and by requiring the development of a national strategy to protect U.S. democratic institutions.
- **Guarantee Disclosure** – H.R. 1 shines a light on dark money in politics by upgrading online political ad disclosure and requiring all organizations involved in political activity to disclose their large donors. H.R. 1 also breaks the so-called 'nesting-doll' sham that allows big-money contributors and special interests to hide the true funding source of their political spending.
- **Empower Citizens** – H.R. 1 strengthens the political power of hardworking Americans by creating a multiple matching system for small donations. This innovative, 21st-century system of citizen-owned elections will break the stranglehold of special interests on Congress and lay the groundwork for an agenda that meets the needs of the American people. The voluntary multiple matching system will be completely paid for by a new surcharge on corporate law breakers and wealthy tax cheats. That way, the individuals and corporations who break the public trust – like Wells Fargo, which created fake bank

accounts for unwitting customers, or Volkswagen, which lied about harmful carbon emissions from its vehicles, or Facebook, which violates Americans' privacy, or Purdue Pharma, which fueled the opioid crisis – bear the cost of building a more just and equitable democracy. H.R. 1 also reaffirms Congress' authority to regulate money in politics, pushing back on the Supreme Court's wrong-headed *Citizens United* decision.

- **Strengthen Oversight** – H.R. 1 ensures that there are cops on the campaign finance beat that will enforce the laws on the books. H.R. 1 tightens rules on super PACs and restructures the Federal Election Commission to break the gridlock and enhance its enforcement mechanisms. It also repeals Mitch McConnell's riders that prevent government agencies from requiring commonsense disclosure of political spending.
- **Fortify Ethics Law** – H.R. 1 breaks the influence economy in Washington and increases accountability by expanding conflict of interest law and divestment requirements, slowing the revolving door, preventing Members of Congress from serving on corporate boards and requiring presidents to disclose their tax returns.
- **Impose Greater Ethics Enforcement** – H.R. 1 gives teeth to federal ethics oversight by overhauling the Office of Government Ethics, closing loopholes for lobbyists and foreign agents, ensuring watchdogs have sufficient resources to enforce the law and creating a code of ethics for the Supreme Court.

Call sheet being developed to call Schumer to end the filibuster.

- Reports he is getting more calls to keep the filibuster.
- Another meeting is planned for next week.
- Mary Hawkins is designing posters.

Livvie: **Virtual action Sunrise, Indivisible Brooklyn, Common Cause 1 pm Sunday Feb 14. Zoom call.**

Here is the link to the event:

[https://www.actionnetwork.org/events/valentines-day-rally-for-hr-1s1?link\\_id=0&can\\_id=9fd445970d5ead66ef9d80df63a8ebd5&source=email-join-dolores-huerta-to-phonebank-for-our-democracy-2&email\\_referrer=email\\_1062750&email\\_subject=join-us-to-rally-in-support-of-for-the-people-act](https://www.actionnetwork.org/events/valentines-day-rally-for-hr-1s1?link_id=0&can_id=9fd445970d5ead66ef9d80df63a8ebd5&source=email-join-dolores-huerta-to-phonebank-for-our-democracy-2&email_referrer=email_1062750&email_subject=join-us-to-rally-in-support-of-for-the-people-act)

- About HR 1 and S 1 and the filibuster. Should be the first of ongoing actions
  - Discussion: Schumer is afraid of the Left; this is the exact right time to act.
  - Numerous states are attempting to restrict voting, so HR1 would make this impossible.
- Here is an October 2020 article about the filibuster:  
<https://www.vox.com/21424582/filibuster-joe-biden-2020-senate-democrats-abolish-trump>

Here is an article by Stacey Abrams about these issues:

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/2021/02/07/stacey-abrams-democracy-test-future/>

RaR Voted to endorse the virtual action about HR 1 And S 1 and the Filibuster on 2/14

### **Tax The Rich - Invest In Our New York**

Livvie: We are part of the invest in our NY campaign. Focusing on people who are disenfranchised:

- o Here is link to sign up for actions:
  - o People who are about to be evicted,
  - o no healthcare
  - o Unable to receive substance treatment.

Actions:

- o One phone call a week on issue of the week
- o Phonebanks: call constituents of assemblyperson: and motivate them to call their assemblyperson. Livvie reported this was very effective and a powerful experience
- o Letters

This will be a short-lived campaign, due to end in March when budget is determined.

Mark H:

- o Americans for Tax Fairness have made a report:
  - o Billionaire class: There are 400 across nation, 118 in NYC.
  - o Their wealth has exponentially increased during the pandemic.
  - o Here is link to ATF report:  
<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Xc613ThQxO4oPyt1xpgZMkVTueZgypzi/e/dit>
  - o AM New York piece on billionaires' wealth increase:  
<https://www.amny.com/news/new-york-billionaires-no-exception-in-building-massive-gains-since-covid-19-struck-analysis/>
  - o This is the time to push.
    - Research: Biden put a lot of emphasis on the tax campaign because it polled very strongly and had a positive effect on down-ballot races for Democrats. Politicians should not be scared to take on this issue.

### **GAG - Saturday 2/13 at Nicole Maliotakis office in Bay Ridge at 1 pm. 77 16 Third Ave, Brooklyn, NY 11209**

Jay:

- o She broke ranks to vote to strip Margery Taylor Greene from Committee assignments, but did not vote for impeachment. Her motivation was her representation of Staten Island residents.
- o GAG has done a "My bloody valentine" action each year; usually in DC, but not this.
- o Discussion of those voting against impeachment: Stefanic north of Albany, Jacobs outside of Buffalo, Lee Zeldin on Long Island.
- o This action will focus on gun violence and how it connects to Insurrection.

**Robert: NYCAN 2/14/21 action 1 pm at Municipal Building under arches**

- o ½ hour photo shoot put on press release NYCAN
- o Posters: Why do we want to ban nuclear weapons?: because we love... firefighters, sunsets, rainbows.
- o Working on City C to pass disarmament legislation.

RaR voted to co-sponsor this action: on Valentine's Day; RaR's name will be on the press release.

**Postcard Campaign: Send out 250 postcards.** Why do we want to ban nuclear weapons because of all the things I love.

- o They will go to Corey Johnson.

Ray: many bills are languishing.

- o Corey Johnson is responsible to get these bills out.
- o Legislators are fearful to pass anything not related to COVID.

Discussion of strategy: how aggressive to be.

- o Ray: Go after your local reps about environmental legislation, and nuclear disarmament.
- o Discussion of how to reach key players: Corey Johnson, Danny Drum and Ben Kallos are allies;
  - o discussion of people close to Corey

### **New note takers needed to help out in the rotation**

MaryEllen can do one day, Leon may have some availability, Peter volunteered

### **Finance**

Mary:

\$17,600 which is a decrease of \$200 from 2 weeks ago.

- o Here is a link to donate to RaR: <https://www.riseandresist.org/donate>

### **Non-Rise and Resist announcements.**

Katrina: Thursday February 4, Urban Justice interviewed NYC Mayoral candidates re homelessness. YouTube link to this event: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ICUSFrg39Q0>

- o <https://www.coalitionforthehomeless.org/2021-black-history-month-poem/>

**COVID vaccine information:** Duane Reade and Walgreens have vaccines and there are appointments available - call 212 243 0129 to set it up or go to [walgreens.com/schedulevaccine](http://walgreens.com/schedulevaccine)

**### RISE AND RESIST ###**