

Rise and Resist General Meeting - Zoom Edition - 7.18.2023

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

New process for non RAR announcements or to put other things on the agenda:
Use rar.facilitation@gmail.com before 3PM on Monday!

Good News:

- It is Jenny's birthday!
- Ray Epps is suing Fox for defamation from January 6; the AG made an outstanding statement which is worth listening to.
- Trump got notified that he was in more trouble on Sunday.
- Michigan is charging 16 fake electors with election law and forgery felonies. [Michigan charges 16 fake electors for Donald Trump with election law and forgery felonies - The Washington Post](#)

Upcoming Actions

Wednesday, July 19, 8:45AM Elevator Actions before the MTA Board Meeting - 2 Broadway

- Monthly protest. Board meets at 10 am
- David Jones, head of Community Service Society, has never seen advocacy like the disability community. (That includes RaR Elevator Action Group)
- To testify to the MTA either in person or on ZOOM [How to submit comments at MTA board and committee meetings](#)

Friday July 21 7 am Fox Action: accompany their "music!" with sound and signs on very long poles!

- There is a new crop of fascist commentators. Jesse Watters had his first show, and his mom called in to object to him being brainwashed by Fox!
 - [Fox host Jesse Watters' mother calls into show to chastise him for 'tumbling into conspiracy rabbit holes' | The Independent](#)
 - <https://twitter.com/i/status/1681124414778122246>
 - [Jesse Watters' mom called into his new Fox News show to tell him 'enough Biden bashing'](#)

Friday, July 28, Drag Story Hour - gather 2PM for 4 pm event at Queens Public Library Jackson Heights branch 35-51 81st St.

- Was rescheduled cos of smoke in June.
- Anarchist organizing group has not decided whether to come.
- Bigot group has been focusing on immigration, and children being groomed.
- <https://www.queenslibrary.org/calendar/drag-story-hour/018474-0623>

Wednesday, August 2, Invoke The 14th Amendment - 1PM Trump Tower

- We have been doing monthly Indict Actions for about a year; shifting now that Trump has been indicted.
- Rick is looking for bulk boxes of the Constitution to hand out.
- Julie has made informational book-marks that will be inserted into the Constitution.

Next Immigration Action – Thursday July 27 5PM Staten Island Ferry Terminal

Next NYFAR (NYC for Abortion Rights) Action at Old Saint Pat’s - Saturday August 5 at 8 am.

Next Rikers Vigil - August 7 5PM location TBD by Action Committee

Endorsement of Hiroshima/Nagasaki action at The Intrepid Museum Sun. August 6th

- Two prongs:
 - 1) Walk from Times Sq to the Intrepid. Walk starts at 11
 - 2) Vigil at 11 am directly in front of the Intrepid handing out educational materials for kids.
 - Intrepid decided to have a party on August 6, the anniversary of the bombing of Hiroshima.
 - “Oppenheimer” is coming out on Thursday.
 - Science Friday will be featuring Setsuko Thurlow, a member of our Youth Arts New York team, and the A-bomb survivor who accepted the Nobel Peace Prize on behalf of ICAN, when they cover the Oppenheimer film.
- **RaR voted to endorse this action.**

Reflections on why we fight and continue to protest:

RaR Mission Statement:

“Rise and Resist was formed in response to the 2016 U.S. election. We are a direct action group made up of both new and experienced activists committed to opposing, disrupting, and defeating any government act that threatens democracy, equality, and our civil liberties. We work collaboratively, creatively, respectfully, and with all the joy we can muster for the health of the people and the planet.

We reject State-sanctioned violence, bigotry, and systemic discrimination in all its forms, including those directed at people because of their disability, gender identity/expression, immigration status, race, religion, sex, and sexuality. We condemn all the oppressive policies that define the current government regime. We strive to intentionally honor the complex challenges we face. Join us in fighting for justice!”

Voices in tonight's meeting:

- Such a variety of interests in peace and social justice, feeling of connectedness and effectiveness, our skill at messaging.
- How different Trump is now, we believed the checks and balances were working. It is clear Trump wants to take the power over, horrifying.
- We can feel overwhelmed and like on a hamster wheel. This work feels energizing.
- I want to know I tried my best.
- My hope: we are not just Cassandra's screaming into the wind; this is a historically epochal time. WWII: it was a given that England would fall. We are in an epochal time, like then. This is the fight of our time and our lives.
- Being a hamster on the wheel keeps me sane.
- Our mission statement needs to include the environment.
- Cookies by Robert.
- Hopefully we influence people to change. There is too much to face alone. We do everything we can do.
- We are at a point of history that is unprecedented; our climate is deeply threatened. This generation has the opportunity to have influence in 1000 years.
- I have been changed. "you just do, and whatever happens happens."
- An antidote to depression. Reading Jewish resistance stories. 25,000 fought the Nazis in the snow. They are a model for resistance.
- Fighting fascism and the climate; motivated by a sense of injustice and racism. Personally helpful.
- A lot of selfish reasons: rage and fearfulness. If a person carries a message home to someone else, that is valuable.
- Trust in this group; this group brings so much clear information. Getting deeper into understanding things. Counteracting the messages of the bigots publicly.
- Sense of purpose: I found my way in through the Immigration Group. My parents experienced the Chinese Exclusion Act. Important: I would not have made it otherwise.
- My life has been about that cause, starting with my first arrest at 21. Never give up hope. RaR is inspirational to others who are in other groups. Rising to the occasion.
- We need to keep doing it to show other people how to stand up against injustice. "Why doesn't someone do something?" led to my newsletter. You don't have to sit there and wait. Positive manipulation: If I can do this, you can write a letter or sign a petition.
- This would make a great info-mercial. We could put something like this as a reel on our website.
- Thanks to the people who show up with their bodies and their voices.
- I can't not do. If I was not involved, I would be even more depressed and grouchy. So, I do it for you. Connections to other parts of our histories. Contextualizing what goes on across the world.
- How come other people don't show up? This is the best antidepressant.
- Wealth inequality has such an impact. Tax the Rich goes out every three months. Why so little?
- It allows me to experience the grief that I feel that is often not easy to feel. Wrestle with those feelings.
- We do need to address the mission statement.
- The mission statement of 2016 logically focuses on protesting government actions. RaR is now also regularly protesting against unjust corporate actions as well as Trumpian, fascist, Christian right leaders and groups (e.g. Drag Story Hour), so those more complex targets should be recognized in the mission.
- People shared books and movies that inspire them.

- o Roza Robota - [Role Model: Auschwitz Activist Róża Robota | Wendy Brandes Jewelry Blog](#)
- o Immigration: Solito by Javier Zamora.
- o Climate: Humanity's Moment by Joelle Gergis
- o A Partisan's Memoir by Fay Schulman: book about WWII partisans in the woods.
- o Partisans of Vilna: movie

Report Backs

Thursday, July 13, Climate Action - 1PM West Side of City Hall Park

- There were 3 or 4 groups; it was a good, sizable crowd.
- Ken Schless closed the entire event, excellent, and made it in the press.
- 5-6 RaR members were present.

Thursday, July 13, 5PM Immigration Vigil at Staten Island Ferry Terminal

- Very good vigil; there was a notable level of interest in getting the leaflets..

July 14 Fox Summer Concert Series + July 21 @ 7AM

- Powerful action; huge thunderstorm; activists stayed.
- Fox has become more embattled, and we have the signs that are on taller polls.
- People, even a Christian group, were very interested in the "turn off Fox!" "Heal from Fox" messages.
- The bang for our buck that we get for this!
- They are now parking vans over Karin's chalking on the street.
- "When they go high, we go higher!"

July 14 Say Their Names canceled - every Friday at 5PM at 96th & Broadway

July 18 Truth Tuesdays at FOX "News" - (every Tues at 10AM at 47th & 6th Ave.)

- Steamy hot. We posted photos of the moving statue of a female athlete. Julie sent hashtags.

July 18 demo at Foley Square - William Johnstone died in Rikers on July 15

- Taj: This was a really good rally.
- US DA called for a receiver to take over Rikers, and to hold the City liable for the agreement they made in 2015. Appears to be going into receivership, inch by inch.
- <https://www.nytimes.com/2023/07/17/nyregion/rikers-island-federal-takeover.html>

Non-RaR announcements

- **Wendy B: Weekly Newsletter, goes out on Sunday nights.**
<https://mailchi.mp/a3d5661d6fcc/protest-fox-and-cnn-for-platforming-fascists>
- **SAG/AFTRA strike: Jon provides us with actions everywhere.**
- sagaftrastrike.org
- **UPS and the Teamsters are likely to go on strike soon.**
- This is what you can do:
 - o Sign this petition to show UPS that the public stands with their workers. Once you're done - send it to 5 friends!
 - o Join our call 7pm on Wednesday July 19th to learn about how you can support UPS workers and other striking workers!
 - o Here are the links:

- o <https://rb.gy/97ksp>
<https://rb.gy/rt4ra>
- **East Hampton: NY Communities for Change report back.**
 - o Blocked a golf course, blocked the airport, Young people did a great job. Dressed as orcas which are attacking yachts.
- **Free the Degas Two:** Abigail Disney got arrested.
 - o Please sign Free the Degas Two if you haven't already!
<https://actionnetwork.org/petitions/petition-drop-charges-against-joanna-smith-and-tim-martin>
- **Raging Grannies doing action in Wells Fargo in SFO**
 - o <https://www.arlnow.com/2023/07/14/climate-protest-draws-group-of-elder-demonstrators-to-rosslyn-bank/>
 - o https://www.instagram.com/p/CusaDs1Stmn/?img_index=1
 - o <https://www.instagram.com/p/CuugrBqJ3G2/?igshid=Mtc4MmM1Yml2Ng%3D%3D>
 - o https://www.instagram.com/p/CuwbTWLrA_f/?igshid=Mtc4MmM1Yml2Ng==
- **This Saturday at the Climate Clock at Union Square: only six years left: Saturday at 11, Climate emergency Day.**
- **Mini recruitment for action supporting Joanna and Tim who were arrested for Degas Action:** Anyone who is interested, contact Livvie at elizabethmann.livvie@gmail.com
 - o <https://actionnetwork.org/petitions/petition-drop-charges-against-joanna-smith->

RISE AND RESIST