

Rise and Resist General Meeting - Zoom Edition – 01.05.21

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: Alexandra & Stu **Notes:** Jackie O. **Participants:** 49 folks

Georgia Senate race update

Sandy: I reviewed the aggregation of polls yesterday, there is nothing definitive. 1.2 million mail-in ballots were requested, which skewed people of color, and skewed older. 50% increase in early voting and 120,000 were folks who did not vote in November 2020. As of 4 pm today, turnout today was light, a positive sign for Dems. Probably will be a nail biter til the end.

REPORT BACKS

12/26 Beds not Body Bags @ Sunnyside, Queens

Mark, Kevin: This was our 4th vigil, this one held at Sunnyside Arches. About 20-24 folks there. Some featured speakers including local political candidates, and local health care workers. A couple of people offended or triggered by actual use of body bag props. One young woman expressed that her grandmother had recently died of Covid and said she was very upset. She was crying and thought it sent a negative message, and asked if we were from Queens.

We discussed it at the Health Care action group meeting. Some feel body bags are powerful as a prop. We also got some feedback from hospital workers at our first vigil at Elmhurst about using the body bags. Before scheduling our next vigil, we want to reach out to neighborhood groups on this issue and maybe try to get their membership involved.

We got media attention for the action: Ch 4, NY1, and one of the Queens papers.

discussion of use of body bags

- Those bags are like a work of art—it's discursive. Body bags provoke a reaction. Conversation with young women is not a bad thing. It's a good thing.

- Maybe we can be a lot more solemn when doing this action. If it's a performative action, we are performing something grave and serious.
- Body bags are part of street theater – something visual for the media. I'm sure they are upsetting but it's kind of the point.
- Our Immigration demo used a cage and the sound of kids crying—very effective, even we were crying. Not sure two women crying is a bad thing. But we should get buy-in from local groups and see what they want.
- Issue here is also about race and class. We are a predominantly white and middle class/professional group going into neighborhoods with working class, of color, immigrant communities.
- Good to use body bags *because* they are upsetting. Fundamentally, unless people are upset you're not going to get anywhere. I'm in favor of using something that speaks to people.
- It's not just how the body bags are read but how we are read as a largely white and middle class group.
- This project got started in the Health Care action group by members who came from Queens and we always wanted those folks to be at the front. We are predominantly white, harder to say if we are predominantly middle class. We have tried to center the action around folks in Queens.
- The point of these demos is that Queens doesn't have enough hospitals. That point can be made without body bags. To not use the body bags does not destroy the meaning of the action at all.
- The Health Care committee has done an amazing job. People didn't know about this issue and now they do.

1/1 NYCAN - Polar Bears For Peace @ Coney Island

Robert: **New York campaign to abolish nuclear weapons** (NYCAN) has been trying to get veto-proof resolution through the City Council to get them to divest from nuclear weapons and affirm NYC as a nuclear free zone (affirmed in 1982 in Rally Against the Arms Race). Back then we had 80 nuclear warheads around NYC, and since then there have been none. We wanted to reaffirm that and sign on to the International Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. Jan 28, 2020 was a council hearing, with a veto-proof supermajority, and then it sat on Corey Johnson's desk with no action.

Had a dozen people on January 1 diving into the ocean to call attention to our work. Got good coverage. Jackie Rudin took great photos and there's a good FB post. Other media coverage as well. Danny Dromm (councilmember, Queens) saw the article in Gay City News and sent it to Corey J.

Jackie R: It was a wonderful event and I enjoyed the exuberance of it, and the community bonding. I commend Robert and everyone else – an event none of us will ever forget.

1/5 Tax the Rich @ Cuomo's Manhattan office

Livvie, Mark: This campaign to generate progressive revenue for NYS has been building for a while. Today we launched the [Invest in Our New York](#) part of the campaign: six legislative bills to tax the rich. Make the Road, DSA, and Vocal were there as part of the 100+ organizations that have signed on to the campaign. Over 100 people at the action, more than expected. Lots of press there, plus several assembly people and state senators. Online events happening in the Albany area, more events in Long Island and [Rochester](#). Future actions could include pop-up Tax the Rich actions at wealthy people's homes around the city.

Social media kit for Invest in Our New York campaign [here](#).

New website for Invest in Our New York Act [here](#).

Discussion of a package of six bills for the campaign [here](#).

Say Their Names – weekly Friday vigil action @ 4:30 pm, 96th & Broadway [no action for the past two weeks]

Jenny: Horror of police not being charged in shooting of Jacob Blake. 1000 people killed by police in 2020. So important to keep this in the forefront, and say their names.

Next vigil at 4:30 this Friday 1/8.

NEW EMERGENCY ACTION PROPOSAL – ‘Arrest, Indict, Investigate’ @ Wed, January 6, Trump Hotel, Columbus Circle (Broadway side)

Martin, Jamie: Action is a response to Trump's phone call [to Georgia Sect of State] and his effort to commit election fraud. Call for FBI investigation. But looks like he might just get away with it as usual. Thought we could garner some attention with protest at Trump Hotel at 5 30 pm – simple walking picket, physically distanced, no rally, can transition to march if it becomes large. Simple message: Arrest, Indict, Investigate. [FB event here](#).

We will have banners: Arrest Trump. Stop the GOP Coup. Indict Trump. All we need are warm bodies to hold banners up. Importance of there being non-violent response and presence stating the obvious. We will not give the media the confrontation they want. We will be solid even in the presence of MAGA trolls.

Protect the Results coalition is helping get out the word to their 80 organizations.

Pandemic is changing in NYC and we don't want to pressure anyone to do anything they don't feel is safe. If people are uncomfortable about coming out, take care of yourself.

This event got ERT approval, but the general meeting needs to vote.

VOTE to endorse action PASSES

UPCOMING ACTIONS

NYCAN Nuclear Ban Actions

Robert: Treaty on Prohibition on Nuclear Weapons becoming law on January 22, prohibiting investment in nuclear weapons. Our effort is to redirect NYC money into other investments. The development of nuclear weapons, the Manhattan Project, began here and we think it important to protest here. There will be a clandestine illumination on Jan. 15.

Endorsement request: With Brooklyn for Peace, NY Peace Action, Veterans for Peace, Judson Church, and others, we are going to 51 missions of 51 countries that ratified the treaty. We are visiting missions with yellow roses, paper cranes.

VOTE to endorse action PASSES

Co-sponsorship request: NYCAN for 3 upcoming photo shoots. #NuclearBan against 3 different backgrounds. Photos will feed into Jan. 22 celebrations/markings of the start of the Treaty.

VOTE to co-sponsor action PASSES

1/10 Sunday Climate Action: Banks: Stop Funding Climate Disasters@ 12 noon, 39th St. and Seventh Ave

Cherie: Climate group planning this action – Bank of America, Chase, and Wells Fargo who are all funding Enbridge Line 3 Tar Sands pipeline in Minnesota/Wisconsin. It's a foul pipeline. We have a new banner 'Stop Funding Fossil Fuels' and new signs made by Elka in Europe. Messaging is solidarity with people directly affected by the pipeline, including the Ojibwe indigenous peoples whose lands are at risk. This is a photo action that will circulate on social media. For an excellent NYTimes op-ed on resistance to the pipeline by Louise Erdrich, see [here](#).

1/14 Thursday Vaccine Access: Protect All People in Congregate Settings @ 1 -2 pm, 90 Church St., NYC office of NYS Dept of Health

Donna: People in prisons, jails, shelters and other congregate settings are at greater risk for Covid. Media is starting to pay attention and there will be more public discussion. Re: prisoners' vaccine access, some states (MA) have been quite progressive, others not. No speeches or marching, physically distanced and masked. See [FB event here](#).

Alexis: This is an amazing action that I support. But I want to remind people that homeless people, who are not in congregate settings, also need access to vaccinations. Not all vulnerable populations are institutionalized.

OTHER NEW ACTIONS

1/19 Tuesday No One Is Above The Law @ 12-1 pm, 42nd St. Public Library steps

Jamie: How to mark the end of Trump's presidency? Action group discussed and is planning something somber that talks about his crimes from 2017 to now. Though Trump physically leaves office so much of what he has done stays behind—policy appointments, laws, etc. This will be a banner action on 42nd St. Library steps. Public readings of all of his crimes: immigration separation, Muslim Ban, obstruction of justice, tax evasion, crimes against women. We will stand and read list of crimes. Invitation action, no FB but invite out to everyone who has been in Rise and Resist from the beginning.

VOTE to approve action PASSES

Banner photos @ Trump Tower TBD

Jamie: We want to do this action for photo ops for posterity. No date announced to keep it secret.

FINANCE

Susan: If folks want to donate what they would have donated in rent, they can now donate it to [ActBlue for Rise and Resist](#). Donation link will be in chat, dropped in early in the meeting since some folks leave the call by this point.

NON RISE AND RESIST ANNOUNCEMENTS

Donna: NYS government is back in business, with a push to get things voted on and passed that have been languishing. There is a call-in tomorrow, Wed., Jan. 6 to pressure Heastie and Stewart-Cousins to vote on law to abolish solitary confinement in NYS institutions.

Katrina: From Coalition for the Homeless on Mon., Jan 11 at 10 a.m.: there is a remote hearing for City Council re: police reform. Committee on Public Safety. You can make a statement at the meeting or submit a statement within 24 hours. For more [info see here](#).

RISE AND RESIST