

Rise and Resist General Meeting - Zoom Edition – 06.15.21

Rise and Resist Contact Information:

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 - Meetings: Every Tuesday at 7pm on Zoom. To sign up for the Zoom meeting [click here](#)
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Facilitators: Cherie & Jamie **Notes:** Jackie O. **Participants:** 30 folks

Good News

- Last minute bills passed in Albany: Gender Recognition Act allowing choice of gender i.d. on public documents; Less is More Act passed (one of 3 parole bills that was up); and Safe Syringe law passed.
- Reality Winner—imprisoned for 'leaking' to The Intercept—has been released to a halfway house and will be finishing up her sentence there or in home confinement.
- Announcement today that Mt Sinai hospital is not closing/downsizing Beth Israel hospital as had been planned—due to COVID lesson that beds are needed.
- Darnella Frazier who took the video of George Floyd's murder was given a Pulitzer Prize special citation.

Bad news (re: NYS legislative session)

The NY State Legislature session was a disappointment in many ways – No climate legislation brought to the floor, including CCA – The popular Health Care Act did not pass -- Two parole bills, including Releasing Aging People in Prison (RAPP), which people have been fighting for for months, were not even considered, and RAPP campaign is regrouping -- Climate groups also planning to redouble their efforts.

This shows that backroom dealings/power stop progressive legislation from even coming to the floor -- Electeds oppose the very positions that they take publicly, while taking money in corrupt ways, with Cuomo at the top – NY Health Care Act (comprehensive universal health care bill) had majority support in both houses, but leadership did not move the bill to the floor in either house

Some modest legislative successes: Bill capping how much interest entities, including health care entities; Another bill passed both houses that whenever hospital systems want to merge or downsize, an independent health equity assessment must take place; AND health advocates went out of the session making a lot of noise that the Health Care Act was ignored.

Report backs

Thurs., 6/10 - Filibuster Action at NYPL

Jamie: Very successful action w/new banner designed by Mary -- Gorgeous placards designed by Robert, and other good existing props – Good flyer, gave out close to 500 – Lots of energetic chanting (Jay and Kim leading) – Clear message with a lot of good photographs – A lot of thought went into messaging on placards, and they were very effective and beautiful.

Discussion: How do we define successful action?

- Message was clear; and action was well-documented
- So success does not involve relation to an audience?
- Audience often comes later – through social media.
- Very difficult and expensive to measure ‘success’ – In our work it’s very difficult to assess -- Pictures appear in major media sometimes months later
- I see this as the beginning of a campaign, and this was a kick-off, and it was a way to see how it goes. We saw that the props were good, etc. I don’t think of success as a single event, but as the promise of a successful campaign.
- We need to do some recon to see where people are struggling around these different bills, and go to where media is with this signage
- About half my time spent leafleting at the action, and I had a hard time translating the meaning of it to people passing by – Then Julie helped me by changing the message: “Let me tell you what this is about”, so I think we had some impact there -- I had some amazing conversations and direct contact with people
- This is a good discussion to have – We need a theory of the media, and whether or how our actions and the media they attract promote social change
- Media actions are important and the images that we create reach a lot of people and are valuable, though hard to measure – Direct action that disrupts the economy also needs to happen along with producing images, to have impact that moves the government – Symbolic actions are valuable but we need to think about those other actions as the pandemic eases: civil disobedience, strikes, etc.

New Action from Heather (calling in from Disneyworld):

Heather: Idea for another filibuster action – Use [reclining Statue of Liberty](#) in Morningside Park (25 ft long, meant to be interacted with on a human scale) – Create your own social media photo/video/TikTok using the statue and signs that you can mix and match re: why we need to end the filibuster – For Ex: four friends with different signs in sequence – “Art direct” your own photo – Could also be a community participation event for folks to use our props and our signs, good to have interaction with people in Harlem who are residents -- We could hand out instructions for people re how to use social media to circulate the photos, etc. – Convenient picnic area right across from Statue – Enthusiasm from Action Group about this also being our Rise and Resist picnic? – So proposal is Create your Own image and also doubles as our picnic – July 11 not available for picnic permit – Permit available on Sunday, July 18

Discussion

- What’s the permit situation? Heather has applied and paid for July 18 (\$25) picnic area which she’ll front if we don’t do it
- Love idea but have concern that our picnic will take away from making connection to community we’re trying to interact with – Agree, if this is a serious action in a great site, let’s focus on that – Also agree, it’s a lovely idea but we don’t need to put the two together – Disagree that we should separate them, we can think that if some folks are ‘on duty’ at the statue while the rest of us are socializing, it would work – Why not do the

action on July 11 and do the picnic on July 18? – Like the idea of two consecutive weekends, but what about doing it consecutively on the same day? – Heather has reserved from 9 – 1 pm

- Straw poll: preference to separate action and picnic.
- Let's think about the best time for the action? – Strong preference in Actions for morning before the heat rises – Is this the best place for a picnic, or would we choose another place if these were separate events?
- Resolution: Folks should hold July 18 in their books while we go forward with the permit process – We have a month to figure it out – We'll have either an action on that day or a picnic on that day, not both. We'll come back to the group with specifics and an official vote. Heather has an unofficial go-ahead to continue planning.

Upcoming Actions

Thurs., 6/17, 5 pm -- [Immigration Vigil @ Staten Island Ferry Terminal](#)

Jamie: Last week we had some additional signs – Conversation about messaging continues, trying to understand differences between Biden's and Trump's policies – Additional sign: "Why are Trump's policies still in effect at the border?" – Working on new leaflets but won't have them for Thursday – Focus on Title 42 restrictions and on policy to return people across the border

Leon & others: Immigration Messaging subcommittee requests ideas from folks about messaging? – History of US exploitation of area is at work here, if anyone has ideas re: how that would look, we could use input – It's been a great action and subcommittee has produced a lot of helpful ideas – Leafleting helps explain the signs that are more obscure – Our message is getting stronger and more coherent

Abolish Ice photo (of Alvin) in The Intercept from past South Ferry Immigration Vigil [here](#).

Fri., 6/18, 5 pm -- [Say Their Names @ 96th/Bway](#)

Weather looks good for this weekly action commemorating the now 400 people who have been murdered by the police, mostly people of color

Sat., 6/10, 12 noon -- [Beds Not Body Bags @ Jamaica Queens – Health Care Action group](#)

Leon: We are going to Rufus King Park, across from where Mary Immaculate hospital used to be, and which is [now condos](#) – The hospital served a low income community which was deeply affected by its closure – We'll bring standard signs and banners (not body bags, because there are a lot of kids in the park, but tombstones) – Directions by subway: Parsons Blvd station.

Date TBD – [Online screening of "The Biggest Obstacle" -- Elevator Action group](#)

Please respond to the [Doodle poll](#) to find a date for collective showing of "The Biggest Obstacle" -- Film featuring Jessica Murray, Jennifer Bartlett and other RAR folk – It's an incredible documentary made over the past 2 years about in/accessibility of NYC subway – 95 minutes – Post-viewing interaction with the filmmakers.

New Actions

'Little Sister' of Statue of Liberty on Ellis Island

Jamie: We are planning an affinity group/vague action that will focus on the ongoing immigration situation at the border, including Title 42 used to turn away refugees and asylum seekers – Affinity group will decide the parameters of the action – Not intending to get arrested but to raise

awareness of issue (but arrest is a possible risk) – If you are interested in this action, please email Jamie at bauwau2u@gmail.com

Vote to support action PASSES

Wed., 6/16, 7:30pm, “For the People Act Town Hall w/Chuck Schumer” @ Virtual Town Hall

Livvie: Statewide [Virtual town hall tomorrow night](#) with Chuck re: killing the Filibuster – Numbers matter! – Requesting approval to endorse Town Hall and to send an email out to our whole RAR list to try to turn out numbers. Link to register [here](#).

Discussion – Use of our whole email list

- We don't even use our email list to announce our actions
- We need a discussion of the use of the list; I think this action is important enough to use the general list

Vote to endorse Town Hall PASSES

Vote to use email list to announce event PASSES

Let's have a collective discussion of the use of our email list, because it keeps bubbling to the surface.

Mid-July – Vaccine Equity action – Health Care Action group

Mark: Once monthly with other groups in NYC we've been highlighting issue of global vaccine access – Current rules re: copyright have been waived by UN in order to get everyone vaccinated – Pharma industry fighting hard, led by Pfizer (located here in NYC) so a bunch of groups doing nationwide actions – Our next proposed action is mid-July when next WTO meeting is being held – Most WTO countries have agreed to waive copyright but there are hold-outs (Germany, Japan, etc.) – Chancellor Merkel coming to DC to meet with Biden around July 14 w/state dinner, etc. – Golden opportunity to do something nationwide around her visit, outside the 30-40 German consulates around the US – No firm plans yet but Health Care Action group taking the lead on this and just want to bring people up to speed.

Discussion

- What should I say to the MD who is telling me waiving copyright for drugs will disincentivize pharma R & D?
- It's a specious argument, especially since R & D for Covid vaccines have mostly been financed by state governments, not by the pharma industry itself – i.e. these are publicly funded vaccine that are now being privately controlled by for-profit transnational pharma industry
- Huge majority of AMA just voted in favor of lifting copyright – Doctors stood up and said whole world needs to be vaccinated – Price of vaccine will drop astronomically if it's treated, as it should be, as a public health measure
- India has been exporting vaccines while they urgently need vaccines in India – Research shows that once you transfer technology for these RNA vaccines, they are quite easy to produce

Sun., 6/27, 2:30 pm, [Queer Liberation March](#)

The Reclaim Pride coalition is again planning the march, some of us will be marshals, some of us will attend.

Jackie R: March planning is looking great – Meet at Bryant Park at 2:30 pm and we will launch when we have critical mass – We're expecting a pretty big crowd

Discussion

- Last year we were attacked by the police, after a glorious march – So we'd like that not to happen again – Strategic Response Group (hyped up police) looked like they are trained to attack black people – So it seemed that last year when we were marching for racial justice, it's like we had a neon sign and they came after us,
- Accessibility arrangements: Wheelchairs will be there and can be reserved in advance – Bus w/AC also available to drop you off at Judson Church – Contact <https://reclaimpridenyc.org/accessibility> for arrangements.
- We can use all the marshals we can get – There are three upcoming marshal trainings that Saje and Chris are doing – See Reclaim website's [Marshal sign-up](#).
- If we announce an RAR contingent through our channels, there will be enough people who show up. Actions can decide when and where?
- No, we've had some problems in previous years with miscommunications – No one is going to organize an RAR contingent, so people can gather together but not officially via RAR organizing.

Finance

Susan: We have about \$18,000 more or less.

Non Rise and Resist announcements

Livvie: Tomorrow at 11 am, organized by **Our City Progressive PAC** (composed of many allies):

"Don't Rank Adams and Yang"

When: Wednesday, 11:00 a.m.

Where: Brooklyn Borough Hall

What: Press conference to expose his right-wing donors, unsavory policies

Who: Our City progressive PAC (supported by many of our allies.

(Formerly a street theater action, now a presser. Please show up. No sm.)

Show up if you can!

Also, Mon., 6/28, a nationwide Day of Action re filibuster, "**Deadline for Democracy**" -- If you want to go to Thursday's planning meeting let Livvie know.

"Deadline for Democracy"

When: June 28

What: Nationwide Day of Action re: Filibuster, S1

Who: Indivisible

SM: none yet

Cherie: Two upcoming Climate Actions in line with work we've been doing:

- 1) Week of nationwide Actions, June 14-21 -- '[Stop Insuring Trans Mountain](#)' -- Pipeline in Canada that carries tar sands --
<https://www.facebook.com/events/149140233780214>
June 21, 1 pm, Action outside Chubb HQs 1133 Sixth Avenue

- 2) Thurs. June 17, 4: 30 pm @ 50th street entrance of Rockefeller Plaza – **Rally to call on Corey Johnson to enact Gas Free City Act** – Legislation to ban all gas hook-ups from new construction – Rally is outside Comptroller debate where Johnson will be

Jackie R: Juneteenth (Sat., June 19), 1 pm @ Jane's Carousel in Dumbo Park
[Break the Chains With Love](#) – Organizer has done actions before that we've attended and they are wonderful – Celebration of Juneteenth ending of slavery

Robert: [Freedom Ride for Voting Rights](#) -- Donate or participate!

RISE AND RESIST