

Rise and Resist General Meeting - Zoom Edition - 6.6.2023

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: Jennifer and Alexandra **Note Taker:** Wendy 28 participants

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!

- The debt ceiling was raised - with compromises.
- A Trump-appointed federal judge struck down a Tennessee drag law.
- Federal judge ripped into [Florida restrictions on gender-affirming care for children](#).

UPCOMING ACTIONS

Wednesday, June 7 - Climate Action

- **Where and when:** Vanderbilt Ave between 44th and 45th - 4 PM.
- Organized by Third Act and allies: "A shady, Koch Brothers-adjacent, dark-money, union-busting group called 'Americans for Fair Treatment' is suing three NYC pension funds to *reverse* their historic divestment from fossil fuels. AFFT is in Pennsylvania - but their law firm Gibson Dunn & Crutcher *is right here*. Let's shame Gibson Dunn and draw public attention to this cynically irresponsible and entirely political lawsuit.
- [Click for event page](#).

Thursday, June 8 - Drag Story Hour Defense, Queens

- **Where and when:** Jackson Heights Library (35-51 81st St); meet up at 2 PM

Monday, June 12 - GAG's Pulse shooting remembrance

- **Where and when:** Stonewall from 5:30 PM - 7 PM
- This is the 7th anniversary of the Pulse shooting in Orlando – the event that led to the formation of Gays Against Guns.
- 49 people are needed to be white-clad "Human Beings." [Sign up here](#).

Wednesday, June 14 - Drag Story Hour Defense, Queens

- **Where and when:** Woodside Library (54-22 Skillman), meet up at 11 AM

Wednesday, June 14 - Hochul Action

- **Where and when:** 633 Third Ave from 5 PM - 7 PM
- This was rescheduled from May 31 by Indivisible Brooklyn
- Tell Governor Hochul to prioritize voters, not billionaires.
- [RSVP here.](#)

Thursday, June 15 - Immigration Vigil

- **Where and when:** Staten Island Ferry Terminal (Manhattan side), 5 PM - 6 PM
- Jamie notes: It's particularly important for us to be out showing pro-immigrant sentiment; the Drag Story Hour harassers (Guardians of Divinity) have been showing up in Queens to protest at motels where they THINK immigrants are housed.

Tuesday, June 20 - Drag Story Hour Defense, Queens

- **Where and when:** Elmhurst Library (86-07 Broadway), meet up at 3 PM

WORKING GROUP REPORTS

ELECTIONS

- The state session ends on Friday.
- There is legislation that is expected to drop tonight – very closed-doors, last-minute change to the state public finance campaign program. The small donor matching program that was funded was based on the one that we've had in NYC for decades. The new legislation would muddy the water by allowing major donors to get public matching funds for the first \$250 of their donations. We want to critique this move even though we expect this to pass. [Use this social media toolkit.](#)
- Here are three calls to make in the next 24 hours.
 - VIVA NY - Bill will make sure voters can vote with a pen and paper. That keeps down costs and wait times. The food & water portion allows people to receive water & snacks when they are waiting to vote. Currently that is illegal in NY, and people have been prosecuted for bringing pizza to voters in line. CALL:
 - NY Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie 518-455-3791
 - NY Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart Cousins (914) 423-4031
 - Script: I am calling to support VIVA NY* A5934A & the Food & Water Bill A1346 These bills are a high priority for me. I am shocked to learn from the NY Times that these proposed touchscreen voting machines are going to cost \$10,000 each. That's double what we're paying now. Research shows counties have to buy five times more machines when everyone votes on a touchscreen. That is hundreds of millions of dollars we'll be wasting. And because counties won't be able to spend that much, there won't be enough machines and the lines will be very long. And the way the law is now, we can't even bring people water while they wait. It's outrageous. Please pass these urgent bills now. Thank you
 - CLEAN SLATE BILL
 - The Senate has passed S211, the Clean Slate bill, which will automatically clear a New Yorker's conviction record once they become eligible. The deadline is fast approaching and the Assembly must take action now and pass A1029.
 - SIGN PETITION <https://resist.bot/petitions/PPXXMT>

- TEXT <https://www.cleanslateny.org/take-action>
 - CALL NY Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie 518-455-3791
- Weigh in on 3 important climate bills by [using this easy tool to send a message](#).
- Make an additional call to your [state senator](#) about Gov. Hochul's nomination of fossil fuel industry supporter, anti-union Justin Driscoll to be President of NY Power Authority. This would undermine implementation of the Build Public Renewables Act. DSA is asking us all to call our NY State Senators to vote against the Driscoll appointment.
 - [Script](#): "Hi, my name is ___ and I live in _____. I'm calling to ask (_____) to oppose Justin Driscoll's nomination for NYPA President. On Tuesday, June 6, the Buffalo News reported that Driscoll turned a blind eye to claims racial discrimination at NYPA. Driscoll also has a track record of advocating for the fossil fuel industry, hostility towards labor unions, and opposition against the Build Public Renewables Act itself. Last month, our state won the biggest Green New Deal victory in US history and signed the Build Public Renewables Act into law, giving New York the huge opportunity and responsibility to lead on climate while advancing gold standard labor protections and fighting for environmental justice. By putting NYPA under his leadership, our vision for green energy for the people, by the people, will be in jeopardy. Will ___ oppose Driscoll's appointment?"

FINANCE COMMITTEE

- We have \$18,770, [but you can still donate](#) so we can do even more great things.

DISCUSSIONS

WRITERS' STRIKE UPDATE

The problem is producers, streaming services, networks, and production houses wanting more for less. It's come to the end of the road. The Directors Guild settled but SAG-AFTRA is the actors union that is going into negotiations tomorrow. [Union members have voted and passed a strike authorization](#). As for the writers' strike, nothing has happened. The producers haven't come to the table though the writers are willing. [This article has good insight into what's happening](#). You are welcome to join any of the writers' pickets in solidarity. For more info, email Jonathan at walkerjonathanb@gmail.com

DOJ EXPECTED TO INDICT TRUMP OVER THE MAR-A-LAGO DOCUMENTS

We have to be ready to spring into action with our No One Is Above the Law banner and Tick Tock Times Up signs. If you're not on the Actions committee list, contact Jamie and ask to get the summary emails that will provide more information on possible actions.

REPORTS BACK

Wednesday, May 31 - Halt Solitary

- This took place in front of City Hall, because of the death of [Joshua Valles in Rikers](#), making it 22 deaths since Mayor Adams took office
- Lawyer for family says autopsy showed fractured skull.
- Meeting attendee warned against believing anything about voluntary organ donations from Rikers victims and recommends the book "Medical Apartheid" by Harriet Washington.

- The day after this action, the Department of Corrections announced it would no longer report [deaths at Rikers to the media](#).
- For the five years before 2020, Rikers reported an average of fewer than nine deaths annually. In 2020, deaths reached 11 (only three from COVID). In 2021, deaths skyrocketed to 16 (none from COVID); last year, they reached 19. Suicides and overdoses have soared, accounting for at least 12 of last year's deaths.
- Act by signing on to [Freedom Agenda's Close Rikers letter](#).

Thursday, June 1 - Immigration Vigil

- We had our "No Detentions, No Deportations" banner.
- Got a lot of negative feedback from people going into ferry terminal: "Send them back to where they came from/our priorities should be our people."
- Adams administration is pushing the idea that immigrants are costing too much but we have resources for all. Jenny suggests signage to that effect.

Thursday, June 1 - Chase Corporate Challenge Run in Central Park

- Video was shared showing folks running by the "Chase funds climate crimes" banner and activists chanting "Chase is a disgrace."
- Got the thumbs up from runners.
- XR was a partner in the action and Mindful Rebels were there.
- This event happens every year, so next time we'll be able to plan further ahead.

Friday, June 2 - Say Their Names

- Every Friday at 5 PM at 96th and Broadway
- We have over 700 names at this point, so we read a portion of them every week. Recently added the names of two people whose deaths were covered up at Rikers, which is three deaths in 2023 so far.
- This event needs marshals every week. Volunteers are welcome.

Saturday, June 3 - Abortion Clinic Defense

- The debut of the new "Abortion is a human right" banner.
- Police presence was massive, so no blockade of antis was attempted. Instead, there was a walking picket, tabling, and the regular banner/umbrella holding outside the clinic.
- One change was the addition of the Rude Mechanical Orchestra and singing of pop songs outside the clinic to interfere with the loud prayers. Planned Parenthood has pushed back on the actions of counter-protestors both in the past and right before this month's action. They say that the only action that is acceptable to them is volunteering as an escort (although they're not taking any on right now) and rallying outside the offices of elected officials. They would allow patients to be exposed to the anti-abortion fanatics with no indication of support. The writer of these notes and other activists reject these limitations as harmful to individual patients and reproductive justice.
- Clinic defense is the first Saturday of every month. Next one is July 1. Meet at Mott and Prince at 8 AM.
- Please call your city council members and ask for an audit of the NYPD's Strategic Response Group presence at the abortion clinic, and urge them to come to the next clinic defense and see this in person.

Saturday, June 3 - Moms Demand Anti-Gun Violence Rally/March

- Rally with speakers and singers followed by march across the Brooklyn Bridge walkways.
- Strikingly few cops compared to the abortion action.

Monday, June 5 - Rikers Vigil in Times Square

- Good group, though not a huge one, out with banners, signs and fliers.
- Poster that said “22 died in Rikers under Mayor Adams’ watch” attracted some anger.
- One person needed to hear the reasons Rikers CAN be closed including the fact that we can stop sending people to Rikers because they can’t make bail.
- This action takes place the first Monday of every month.

Tuesday, June 6 - Truth Tuesdays at FOX “News”

- Good turn out, several people asked to hold a Robert Ayers sign for a picture.
- Kim did great chalking and chanting
- Every Tuesday this summer at 10 AM at 1211 6th Ave.

NON-RAR ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Rally with United Federation of Teachers at **4 PM Wednesday, June 7, at 52 Broadway** in support of the New York Health Act
- March on **Thursday, June 8, starting at 7 PM at Stonewall**. A combination of the weekly We Reject Eric Adams march and the Trans Liberation march after violent arrests were made at both of those events last week.
- Rally on **Monday, June 11, 11:30 AM**, re approving ibogaine for opiate addiction. Contact Dana for more information.
- Music fundraiser for bail on [Saturday, July 8, at 7 PM](#).

RISE AND RESIST