

Rise and Resist General Meeting 1.21.2020

Rise and Resist Contact Information

- Website: www.riseandresist.org
 - Email list signup <http://eepurl.com/cCzq1X>
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 - Meetings: Every Tuesday at 7pm at the [People's Forum](#), 320 W 37th St, New York, NY 10018
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Notes - Sandy Facilitators – Cherie and Paul

Welcome –Let's go around and have everyone say their name.

Please put your phones away; let's remain present.

Folks who are in spaces like this normally speak a lot. We ask that you step back, and give space to people who may not be as comfortable speaking in a group to step up. We ask new folks to feel empowered to ask questions, to speak up, and to participate.

REPORT BACKS

1/16—Federalist Society—Ray

About 50 of us showed up on a very cold January night. It was for gala honoring Niki Haley. Lots of media was there. Ray gave 3 interviews; others did too. They talked about the problems with Federalist Society-- ruining the judiciary by appointing judges unqualified, advocating policies which violates their 5013c status.

Attendees were shocked that we were there. A lot of people yelled at us to get a job. (It's 6:30 at night; we have left our jobs) Lots of fur coats; made comments about their animal skins. Got some good press. We challenged them for what they're doing. Haven't seen any press since then but journalists were there asking questions. It wasn't a demo conducive to photography since we were huddled together in two masses on two sides of the entrance trying to stay warm.

SWARM—Diane

Diane wants to encourage others to get down to DC. It is very tiring and the people there need some support and relief. Each day there were about 60 people. Thursday was a big day with several actions. For the action in the Russell Building, the cops got us out fast. Virginia, Tricia and two others were taken into custody with hands chained behind their backs and then chained to the wall. They were released in 90 minutes and fined \$30. We went back to the Heart Building and Laurie dropped a banner from the 4th floor. The third one was at Union Station where Sing Out Louise was the highlight, providing much needed relief.

We paid visits to McConnell's and Graham's offices and eloquently told them what we thought by reading many of the negative statements Senators had made about Trump.

Please if anyone has the chance, please go down there. It's really worthwhile.

Claire asked about impact. Diane believes it has an impact; has an impact on people who work there. Alexandria heard that Democratic legislatures asked that they be there.

Jamie responded to Claire's question by saying that we never know what impact we're having. But lots of pictures of us end up around the world months after things happen. It's important for us to go out with our signs but we can't expect to see an effect in the short term.

1/18—Women's March—DC—Diane

DC Women's March was fabulous expect for the weather with freezing rain coming down soon after it started. Diane estimate there were about 20,000 people there, not as bit as prior marches but the spirit was great. While the focus was mainly on women's issues, immigration was also included.

1/18—Women's March—NY--Jamie

About a dozen of us were there with an immigration banner and signs. We were the most organized presence among the approximately 200 or so people in Foley Square. The weather was pretty brutal that day. We stayed about an hour.

UPCOMING ACTIONS

Chase Bank Climate Action 1/23—12:30 pm at the clock in Grand Central—Stu

Stu announced the action and gave the particulars. Many indicated they would be coming. Ray articulated support for the silent vigil.

Sandy provided an update on the national "Drown Jamie Diamond in paper initiative". RaR was responsible for over 150 letters going out. Nationally it is estimated that over 2,000 letters were mailed to either Jamie Dimon's NYC apartment or his Mt. Kisco country home.

Sandy reported that, after voting last week to approve RaR being listed as part of the stopthepipeline.com coalition, Rise and Resist's logo has been added to this website's home page along with dozens of other environmental and advocacy organizations.

Vigil for Malaysia Goodson Rally for Accessible Subways—1/28 at 9 am; 60 Centre St.-Sasha and Robert

This is a vigil for the young woman who died a year ago. Members of her family will be present. There will be speeches and a vigil. At 9:30 am we will go into court for the hearing. We want to educate people that it is dead wrong that she had other medical conditions. We have a flyer to tell that story. This action is to pressure the justice system to get moving. "Justice Delayed is Justice Denied". Diane will take photos at this action.

Immigration vigils at Grand Central on 1/30 and in The Oculus on Thursday, 2/13 at 5:30 pm-Jamie

We did one early in the year at The Oculus and had a good showing. It is important to keep doing these because immigration has fallen off the radar. We need to remind people that this is still an important issue and that these terrible things are still going on. Kids are still in HSS custody; all is continuing as if nothing has happened. There are FB events up for both of these.

State of The Union Demo—2/4, location TBD—Jamie

We don't know if the trial will still be going by 2/4 but we want to be prepared. While we will keep options open on messaging, we did talk about Trump's warmongering as one option.

Mary asked about new signs and Jamie indicated that, yes, we'd want them as well as a DIY banner. The aim was to let Mary know by Wednesday, Jan. 22.

Facilitation announcements; rent collected; January tasks

Update on Steps to Improve the Tuesday Meetings based on the survey—Sandy and Diane

We discussed the three areas we wanted to work on—finding quality outside speakers, planning a couple of RaR social events, and taking steps to be more welcoming to new members. Sandy and Diane encouraged people to get involved to help us and Donna implement these steps. We indicated that emails would be going out to those who volunteered to see about having a meeting to determine next steps.

Discussion of Facebook's refusal to fact check political ads and implications for the 2020 election—Stu

Stu introduced this topic by indicating that FB will not be fact checking any political ads in the upcoming election and that is scary. One of the ways we can affect the election is if we can affect Facebook. They had a lot to do with Trump's victory and they can do it again. FB is a monopoly with a billion customers and FB has a substantial presence in NY. Stu suggested that maybe we should run false ads about Mark Z. and see if he notices.

Discussion followed with diversity of opinion expressed:

- Totally down for something
- Have mixed feelings—TV stations don't fact check their ads either. Taking it on as a campaign where we try to shut them down is not something we should do.
- I would love to have an action against FB. Trump has lied 16,000 times. His campaign is built on lies. They micro-target and are pernicious. Trump used FB effectively. We need to get FB to change their policy and get them to factcheck.
- We as RaR shouldn't be spending our money targeting FB ads about FB's poor policy. Maybe we could join a coalition already doing this.
- Twitter is banning political ads. This is provocative on the left because many rely on ads. We should push for publicly funded elections. That will level the playing field and get at the root cause. For political campaigns, they are allowed to lie. Wikipedia is starting a non-profit. We could encourage people to go to Wikipedia as a trusted alternative source. We should focus on Trump's lies.
- We need to just continue putting the truth out there and calling out the lies. We can't stop FB ads.
- How about a petition on FB? Tom Steyer got 8 million signatures on FB for impeachment.
- I'm afraid of the whole issue. Who is the arbiter?

Conclusion was that there was not a lot of interest in going after FB.

NEW RAR ACTIONS

Senate Trial Discussion—Jamie

There was a fair amount of discussion about whether we should do something. The group seems to want to "make some noise". It was decided to have an action on Monday, Jan. 27 at 5:30 pm in Grand Central. There was a vote on Remove Trump—This Trial is a Sham.

RaR voted to endorse this action.

City Council hearing on Nuclear Abolition (divesting pension system)—1/28 at 1 pm—Ray

The floor previously endorsed this ongoing campaign to abolish nuclear weapons. Two bills are pending—one to completely divest pensions of any company involved in nuclear weapons; other bill is to create an ongoing committee to monitor NYC as a nuclear free zone. RaR is being asked to show up and hold signs behind the podium. There are speakers at 1 pm; suggested arrival time is 11:30 am. People are encouraged to stay and go to the hearings. This could lead to other divestments such as guns, fossil fuels etc.

RaR voted to be a co-sponsorship of press sponsorship.

Finance—Mary

We collected \$121 tonight; we have a balance of \$13,600, an increase of \$800 from two weeks ago due to a recent donation.

Mary mentioned that we made \$596 at a recent pub fundraiser. She also wanted permission to use some of her own money to turn the United in Outrage vinyl banner into bags which could be sold.

Mary was granted permission by RaR to use her own money for this.

NON RISE AND RESIST ACTIONS AND EVENTS

National Popular Voting Action—Mel

Mel will create a fact sheet and prepare it to hand out and further discuss next week.

New website launched—<https://www.diversioniscoercion.nyc/statements>—Katrina

DeBlasio launched a new program to stop criminalizing people who are sleeping on the subways. There is time for those affected to submit testimony. See the website for more details.

Voter Registration in Florida—Sandy

A new website has been launched to connect Florida visitors with people and organizations in the local area if they want to spend a few hours/days registering voters while in Florida. Check out HelpFloridaRegister.org for more details.

RISE AND RESIST