

Rise and Resist General Meeting - Zoom Edition - 6.8.2021

Rise and Resist Contact Information

- Website: www.riseandresist.org
 - Email list signup <http://eepurl.com/cCzq1X>
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 - 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](#)
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Facilitators: Alexandra & Paul **Notes:** Heather

Alexandra called the meeting to order at 7:05 and gave the weekly welcome announcements. She highlighted the donation link posted in the chat box. <https://www.riseandresist.org/donate/>

Good News: Donna G: New York City Jails will no longer use solitary confinement. How successful this is remains to be seen. Jenny H.: Less good news, there have recently been two deaths in Rikers that need to be acknowledged.

REPORT BACKS

Chase Bank Climate Action - Stu: This action was planned by the Rainforest Action Network, which has been targeting the financial sector for over 10 years. The banner that they provided was a photo of the devastation after Hurricane Maria, which was too transparent and without context. Our Rise and Resist banner helped to add context and make for layered photos. Mary: their banner idea had potential, as a billboard sized photo (it was 30 feet) it's not a bad idea. Mary offered to contact RAN with some advice. Jamie: Using photos can be effective, but in a collection that tells a story. Mary and Heather agreed this was a good potential idea, people put ideas of iconic images in chat. Maybe they'll try again.

Immigration Vigil - Jamie: the group returned to the Staten Island ferry with some new signs and posters. They took out US Immigration is A Crime and an Anti-Malliotakis poster and the messaging seemed to work well. There was a lot of good feedback, including people who appreciate our calling out Malliotakis.

March for Parole Justice - Alexandra: This rally and march was organized by RAPP. (Release Aging People in Prison) and The People's Campaign for Parole Justice. The goal of

the march was to pressure the legislature to pass elder parole and fair & timely parole. The deadline to make phone calls, etc. is June 10. There were about 150 people, including a few RaR'ers. A multi-racial and multi-age crowd. Donna updated us on the two bills - the session ends June 10 and won't start again until January, so this is a last minute effort. Tonight RAPP supporters are camping out in front of the Capitol. Donna is frustrated that no matter how many legislators approve of a bill, it won't even be brought to a vote if the chamber leaders don't put it on the agenda. We need to change this system. <http://rappcampaign.com/about/>.

<https://www.parolejusticenyc.com/take-action>

Ann R. pointed out that we are not one of the huge list of organizations that support the People's Campaign for Parole Justice. <https://www.parolejusticenyc.com/campaign-partners>

Pfizer Die-In - Mark H.: this was around the issue of global access to the vaccine - FreeTheVax. This was a mobile action that went to Pfizer and 5 different countries' UN missions — EU, Canada, UK, France, and Germany. The die-ins took too much time, so they stopped after two missions. There was some press in AMNY. The goal is to remove all these barriers by the end of the summer so we can Free the Vaccine and logistics can start in the fall. Historically, this resistance all traces back to Pfizer so Pfizer will continue to be our target. Ann R. did a shout out to RaR comms for the work they did on this. Robert applauded the visual of the handmade tombstone signs and how great they are. Ann said they were made at the last minute by GoBK. Alexandra reminded us to check in with our friends in countries without vaccine access, they are having a rough time.

<https://newrepublic.com/article/162527/long-strange-trips-grubby-history-vaccines-became-intellectual-property?>

Poor People's Campaign for the 3rd Reconstruction and the New York Health Act, yesterday - Ann R. There were actions in Albany (and all state capitals) and here in NYC. Katrina reported back on the action outside Carolyn Maloney's Office. A group went into the office to with a copy of the resolution to tell Maloney's staff that we expect her to vote for it. There were 5 actions in cities across NY. There was some media coverage. This was the launch of the 365 Days of Action.

<https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/politics/poor-peoples-campaign-holds-actions-nationwide-aimed-at-ending-poverty>

<https://www.binghamtonhomepage.com/news/claudia-tenney-responds-to-poor-peoples-campaign-rally/>

<https://www.3dreconstruction.org/>

Mark was working with the Albany action. A lot of the visuals are on the Campaign for New York Health's Facebook page. There was a stop at the local Rep's office, and a die-in outside the Capital. There were in excess of 200 people there, which is really good since health care activists are still feeling the reality of the pandemic. The resolution likely won't come to the floor in the next two days, but this campaign is set up for the long haul. The leadership blocking these bills are feeling the heat.

Ann countered that legislators are secretly not in favor even when they say they are, so we need to be out in the streets.

Elevator Action Group - Jennifer V.

Yesterday there was a press conference in the Bronx, led by the Riders Alliance Transit Campaign. EAG and Accessibility activists were also there to support accessibility. There were so many activists there in wheelchairs that one of the reporters asked if this press conference was about wheelchair access and of course Jennifer said it was and Riders Alliance said it was about federal funding, but the point was made. This was the first in-person, pandemic-era action for a lot of the EAG people who have been working only by Zoom over the past year, so it had great energy.

www.amny.com/news/transit-advocates-want-20-billion-for-mta-from-biden-infrastructure-bill/

Jessica Murray, a RaR'er and member of the EAG is featured in a film called The Biggest Obstacle, which is two years in the making. In the film Jessica rides the subway with people who have all kinds of disabilities - wheelchairs, blind, deaf, cognitive, invisible disabilities, etc. Jessica would like to have a RaR virtual screening. Jennifer asked to do a straw poll for interest. There was a lot of interest. There was an even response to weekend or weeknight preference. Jennifer will take this back to Jessica and find a night that works for her and the director, since they're also busy with film festival screenings!

<https://www.instagram.com/thebiggestobstacle/>

<https://www.facebook.com/theBiggestObstacle>

UPCOMING ACTIONS

Kill the Filibuster - this Thursday, June 10 at 5:00 on the steps of the NYPL. We will be out with a new Kill the Filibuster banner, the orange foam letters, and signs representing the bills that have passed the House but are being held up by the filibuster in the Senate. We expect to have enough people for holding all the props and leafleting, but the more the merrier!

<https://fb.me/e/PJpagiDS>

General Filibuster Discussion

Jamie - even with Manchin saying he wouldn't vote for the For the People Act, it is still worth fighting for.

Robert gave us a list of bills beyond FTP that are being held up by the threat of filibuster.

Paul: The Republicans don't care because all they do is judges and taxes.

Heather: Is it worth pressing on moderate Republicans who are actually less locked down than Manchin?

Mark H: insiders say there's a sense of defeat and resignation inside the beltway. He feels like it still makes sense for activists to take on Manchin and make it personal. We need to call out the dark money - we know why he's doing what he's doing. He was a co-sponsor of FTP in 2019 and now he's against it.

Jonathan - it's our job to take on a losing proposition.

Paul: Just now the Republicans have killed the Paycheck Fairness Act by filibuster. Manchin voted for it.

Ann R: we should plug in with the Poor People's Campaign which is working on the ground in West Virginia.

<https://www.commondreams.org/news/2021/06/08/we-are-coming-poor-peoples-campaign-marc-h-against-manchin-obstructionism-west>

Stu: not sure all this attention should be on Manchin, but on the Democratic Party as a whole. It's not our job to tell them exactly what to do, it's our job to tell them to do something. Not get caught in how the sausage is made.

Joan O: It's been in the press that people in W Virginia actually favor the Voting Rights Bill and other things that Manchin is blocking.

Tom: Manchin is a Dino - a fake Democrat, we should call him that. Even the Republican governor of VT signed a law that expands voting rights.

Alvin: We should reprise the funeral marches with the caskets. Expose the dark money behind Manchin. Lot of thumbs up to the funeral march idea.

Save the Date: The next Beds Not Bodybags will be July 10, noon, in Jamaica, Queens. Outside an upscale housing building that used to be a safety net hospital. Do we need luxury housing or do we need hospitals? Details to come.

Say Their Names: The weekly vigil is Fridays at 5:00. We will be holding the space at 96th and Broadway if it's not raining. Check your email at 4:30 for weather updates.

Finance Report

Mary - the next working group meeting is Friday at 11:15 if you'd like to join. If you'd like to donate: <https://www.riseandresist.org/donate/>

Non Rise and Resist Announcements

Jenny H: She thinks we should watch a webinar with **Greenpeace** on what is happening with protest. Democracy Needs Dissent - Wednesday 6/16 5-8 (an action overlap hopefully recorded) <https://gpus.link/dissent>

Katrina: We should try the NYC sample ranked-voting ballot. The questions are fun and it will show you which candidates you agree with.

<https://projects.thecity.nyc/meet-your-mayor/ultimate-match.html>

<https://app.rankedvote.co/elections/5793/Favorite-Asian-Noodle-Dish/5780/vote>

Met Council for Housing had a seminar on the NYC rent assistance program. If you have questions about this new program, you can talk to Katrina.

<https://otda.ny.gov/programs/Emergency-Rental-Assistance/#apply> kat.corbell.19@gmail.com for questions.

Mark H: there's a webinar from **Americans for Tax Fairness** around how to talk to everyday people about these tax issues. It features Biden's pollster, who encouraged him to campaign on raising taxes on corporations and the ultra-rich.

https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZApf-6qpjSpEtYbn_9KV_odiNrBAN4roc-7

RISE AND RESIST