

Rise and Resist General Meeting - Zoom Edition - 5.11.2021

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: Jamie **Notes:** Maryellen

Good News!

1. Biden reverses Trump policy and orders LGBTQ people protected against sex discrimination in health care.

(Jamie) This is especially important for the NY metro area because doctors and hospitals could refuse to serve LGBTQ people. This puts people back under protection. The Biden administration will go after changing the rules Trump implemented. Good to see this.

2. (Livvie) On the NY State level. When we were working on voting rights there were two bills that required constitutional amendments: 1. No-fault absentee ballots; and 2. Same-day registration. Both passed the assembly today and will be on the ballot in the fall. There won't be a problem passing it in the Senate.

3. (Virginia) NRA bankruptcy was turned down today which means AG James can proceed with lawsuit.

4. (Robert) Sarah Schulman's book (i.e., Let the Record Show: A Political History of ACT UP New York) goes on sale a week from today.

Report backs

1. 5/6 Immigration Vigil

(Donna) Had one banner (Seeking Asylum is Not a Crime) and a lot of signs with photographs. Good response by and large, with a few complainers. Erik posted a photograph of Alvin to the Intercept.

2. 5/7 Say Their Names -5PM Fridays at 96th-Broadway

(Jenny) Expected a small group since the Filibuster action was occurring at the same day/time. But over 30 people attended – a lot of new people. It's wonderful to see people

spontaneously stand there sometimes when they're on their way shopping. Had Tamir Rice's photograph, and that was the day when his mother spoke out about continuing the inquiry and pursuing justice.

People continue to come by and are deeply moved.

3. 5/7 Say Their Names in Brooklyn

(Livvie) All the names were read simultaneously, and the 9 minutes 29 seconds of silence were recognized.

4. 5/8 John Lewis Day of Action

(Alexandra) A few arrived from the Filibuster action in Brooklyn, and met up with some RARers who live in Manhattan. Had quite a strong showing for RAR. People loved our banner, and asked us to be in the front of the march. The group leaders and many people of color marched with the banner from 125th Street to 110th at the Frederick Douglas Circle. There were a number of politicians there – including Sen. Schumer.

Was very glad that we were there.

(Jenny) It ended up being a wonderfully spirited, energetic, warm action. Was thrilled that for the first time in a very long time to be participating in something that just launched and then took the streets. That added to the factor of feeling good in general. The first person seen on the dais was Sen. Schumer.

It was a very good action.

5. Angie Kearsse Action for Andrew, May 11th

(Jay) 4th Anniversary of Andrew Kearsse's death was today. Trees are planted every year. Recognition to get the Andrew Kearsse Act passed which allows for police civil responsibility if medical assistance isn't rendered to someone in police custody and they then die (like what happened to Andrew Kearsse).

There was a certificate given to Angie regarding the passing of the Andrew Kearsse Act. Robert printed a copy of the certificate and laminated it – it was then wrapped around the tree (that was planted today).

Angie wants people to realize that this is happening in every single state – some victims of police brutality survive and some are killed. It's very important to lift the victims' names across the country for people to understand the depth and pervasiveness of the issue.

(Robert) The Andrew Kearsse Act passed legislation for civil accountability. The next step is to make it a criminal offense for when police do not render medical assistance to people in custody and they later die - in each state across the country. Angie Kearsse received a call today from Elizabeth Warren. Encourage each state to focus on the people who died in their state in addition to the well-known victims.

(Announcement 1 of 2 - Jay) Cellblocks for Killer Cops is an action that will demand DAs and AGs across the country to reopen cases of when people were killed by police officers. For example, Tamir Rice. Not one police officer has experienced any accountability for the killing

of Tamir Rice.

The action will be on May 25th at 3pm, at 1 Police Plaza. Action posted to Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/events/872213423362192>.

(Announcement 2 of 2 - Jay) Another action will occur on August 28th in DC. More information will be available soon.

Report back/evaluation on Filibuster Action (5/7-5/8)

(Livvie) It was amazing to work on this, with everyone. Everything was wonderful. It was ridiculously cold overnight. There was something very profound both reading and hearing some of the texts that were read – appreciate the foundation of democracy, and all the ideas.

(Mark) Programmatically it was an amazing event. Ensured we had groups for all the slots. Every single hour in the 24 was covered. Groups read an amazing array of topics: social justice, government, etc. A very moving and profound experience. Went very smoothly with different working crews: marshalls, livestreaming, off-site reps, stage management. Everybody worked respectfully.

(Julie) Went really smoothly. Only question is, “Now what?” 24 hours of intense effort on so many peoples’ parts and there wasn’t any media coverage.

- (Reply/Answer by Livvie) The media was depressing. A media advisory and press release with photographs were distributed via three different organization lists. The general reaction from the press is that they never go out to Brooklyn to cover events.
- Mark is putting together a literature list.

(Rick) Great to see so much terrific teamwork. Hopeful something from Erik’s photographs will be leveraged in the future.

(Mike) Attended to livestream parts of the action. Thought the whole experience was great and appreciated Tom’s idea. Activism is an act of faith and you don’t really know what the impact is/will be. It was very intimate, especially at night. Powerful pieces such as James Baldwin being read by the Revolting Lesbians. There’s a lot of other things happening these days and there are activists focused on different topics. The lighting was very good.

(Jay) It was amazing and I had a wonderful time. It was really powerful. One bit of press was released by Gay City News:
<https://www.gaycitynews.com/filibuster-senate-chuck-schumer-home-brooklyn>.

(Wendy) It was extraordinary. Was planning to stay an hour but stayed for a long time. It was very compelling.

(Robert) The music came from Resistance Revival Chorus:
<https://www.resistancerevivalchorus.com>. Encourage people to purchase the album to support the cultural workers.

(Jennifer) It was wonderful. All of the readings were great and interesting. Big thank you to Martin who livestreamed for a very long time. Cannot process how Schumer did not acknowledge the action, but rather sneaked out the back to leave the building.

(Alexandra) Where should the photographs be sent?

- (Reply/Answer by Jamie) We'll discuss at Actions meeting tomorrow/Wednesday, May 12th, and see if anyone wants to volunteer to take them.

(Stu) Loved Robert's slide show. Will put it on RAR Twitter – but there may be a time limit (2 minutes, 20 seconds).

(Mark) Has a link to Senator Schumer's testimony during today's Hearing:

<https://www.democrats.senate.gov/news/press-releases/transcript-majority-leader-schumer-re-marks-at-senate-rules-committee-markup-of-s1-the-for-the-people-act-legislation-to-strengthen-democracy-and-make-it-easier-not-harder-to-vote>

(20) Upcoming Actions

1. **AIG - Don't Insure the Climate Crisis Wednesday 5/12 11AM @ 175 Water St.** (Cherie) Action will take place at the exact moment when AIG will be having their annual meeting. RAR will deliver a petition with over 150 signatures telling them to stop insuring fossil fuels and the Trans Mountain Pipeline (owned by Canadian govt). News during the past couple weeks is that Canada is now no longer saying who is insuring the pipeline to avoid activist engagement.

At tomorrow's action there will be banners, signs, and special chants. Maria will film it.

If they can't insure the pipeline, then they can't build it. This is a key way to get AIG to stop building the pipeline.

(Sandy) It's very important to go after the businesses now, because in a year or so we may now know, because of the Canadian legislation making it illegal to reveal who is insuring the pipeline.

Request a vote to use the RAR email list to distribute an announcement about the action and ask people to sign the letter.

Vote approving letter distributed to RAR list: Passed/approved

2. **Immigration Vigil Thursday May 20 @ 5PM TBD**

(Jamie) Location to be determined, but will likely take place at Staten Island Ferry. There will be a continuation of the Immigration discussion at 5/13th at 6pm. If interested in working on this sub committee of the Actions committee, contact Jamie and they will send you the invite to join the discussion.

Everyone is more than welcome to join.

3. **Beds Not Body Bags Saturday May 22, Noon**, at Kingsbrook Hospital, Bklyn

(Ann) Organized with Kingsbrook group. More details with FB page, flyers, details for how to get there, etc. available next week.

(Mark) Action is happening near the train station.

New Action/Endorsement

1. CCIA - Tuesday May 18th 5:30PM Cuomo's Office (633 Third Avenue)

(Cherie) Many groups will be gathering together to demand the passage of CCIA | Make Polluters Pay. A lot of senators and assembly members have signed on. But now everyone is pushing really hard to get the critical mass of people behind it. This has to be done quickly.

(Elaine) What does "Make Polluters Pay" mean?

- (Answer) Senate Bill S4264A, <https://www.nysenate.gov/legislation/bills/2021/S4264>

(Mike) Groups are working to try and move us to public power because the profit-driven companies will not do the right thing. Similar to what's happening in Germany, etc.: Take those utilities and make them under public control.

Proposal for an Asian Peace Banner

Propose an RAR #StopAsianHate banner for future actions that directly involve Asian Hate Crimes and other actions.

(Alvin) Could be used for specific actions during the future, or in general. The murder of the six Asian women at the Georgia spa has been deemed a hate crime today.

Vote approving design/purchase of a banner: Passed/approved

Parole Bills - days of actions

(Donna) RAPP has been working for months to pass two parole bills. Asking everyone to call Andrea Stewart Cousins and Carl Hastie to tell them to pass the Elder Parole and Fair and Timely Parole Bills, on May 13th.

Health Care Committee - Pfizer vaccine patent update

1. *Save the date June 7 NY Health Action

(Mark) <https://www.nyhcampaign.org/passnyhealthmay18>

2. (Mark) **Unexpected good news from last week/Wednesday** – Biden administration came out in support of a waiver of intellectual property rule so the vaccines could be produced generically in other countries. And people could move ahead in mass vaccinations campaigns in other countries. RAR jumped in with ACT UP, CPD, etc. to do some actions (primarily outside Pfizer – they took in \$3.5M for the first quarter as a result of the vaccinations, 20% of that is pure profit). A long way to go to getting shots in arms across all the countries.

Now WTO has to go through a process of determining the terms and conditions of the waivers, then technology waivers, provide the funding, and then help support the healthcare systems in the countries to help people get vaccinated.

Drug industry was just as surprised by the announcement – so they are pulling out all the stops. Pfizer is leading the charge to undermine/weaken the negotiation process. This is not close to being a "done deal." We'll have to proceed with a campaign to call out Pfizer, and end vaccine apartheid.

Stay tuned...

3. (Mark) **Sign-up form isn't public yet.** One action happening in NYC, led by healthcare unions.

4. **National Medicare For All Zoom Mtg 5/13**

(Mark) Visit the following link for information,

https://www.medicare4allresolutions.org/thank-you-for-signing-up-2/?link_id=2&can_id=0b6ecbe3e1f5cd0ea9b68274f106c4dd&source=email-medicare-for-all-must-mean-all&email_referrer=email_1170629&email_subject=medicare-for-all-must-mean-all

Non Rise and Resist announcements

1. ***War Resisters League (WRL) Tax Day Demo 5/17** (3pm – 5pm) at Times Square Military Recruiting Station

(Donna) WRL has been following the military budget for many years which comprises 48% of the total budget, human resources is 43%. The military budget is going to have \$1,704B. It's important to demonstrate on Tax Day that taxes are for peace not war. Action will be a rally and a march.

2. (Cherie) **Stop the Money Pipeline Coalition:** May 19th, 12:30 pm, at 1133 6th Avenue. Targeting Chubb Insurance Co. Same type of action as the AIG one scheduled for tomorrow/Wednesday, May 12th.

Vote for RAR endorsement of action: Passed/approved

3. General Announcement: Fox Pop-Up action by XRNY, date tbd in June (Maryellen)

<https://cryptpad.fr/pad/#/2/pad/view/X0xo2iRjzjOh6LmploRFbiu7UGLeualv7w4nGywPZP0>

When more information is available, and/or action is confirmed, will present to RAR for endorsement.

RISE AND RESIST