

Rise and Resist General Meeting - Zoom Edition - 10.26.2021

Rise and Resist Contact Information

- Website: www.riseandresist.org
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 - General email: info@riseandresist.org
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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 and Sandy **Notes:** Maryellen

Good news. City DOH, Rolling Stone article, Potential Cracks In Manchin's Armour

- City DOH resolution declaring systemic racism a public health emergency
<https://www.dropbox.com/s/e2wmtouda2a15d0/racism-public-health-crisis-resolution%20CITY%20COUNCIL.pdf?dl=0>
- Two people who participated in the January 6th insurrection revealed Congressional representatives helped with the planning
<https://www.rollingstone.com/politics/politics-news/exclusive-jan-6-organizers-met-congress-white-house-1245289>
- Manchin seems to be considering key pieces of the Build Back Better bill. \$1.75T is the current amount, which is half of what President Biden asked for. Won't be everything we want, but some good things are in there.

Report Backs and discussion

10/21 Vaccine Apartheid

Vague affinity group action. Went to the home of Pfizer CEO (in Scarsdale, NY) on his 60th birthday and set up a graveyard in his front yard. There was a coffin placed on the ground. Health Global Action Project and two medical students spoke. Was approximately 10 minutes long. NY Times and AP photographers were there.

Nobody was home at the time since the house is up for sale. The only people there were a prospective buyer and a real estate agent – both left soon after the action started. Across the street, a neighbor who lived in a large mansion completely freaked out and called the police. They eventually showed up after everything was packed up – no problems.

This was a follow-up action to one that was a couple weeks ago when activists put large piles of paper mache phones on executive's lawns in DC and Boston, during the execs' birthdays. Similar actions are being held throughout the country.

10/22 Say Their Names (96th & Broadway at 5PM)

It's beginning to get dark and we may need to change the start to 4:30 pm in a couple weeks when the daylight savings time changes. This was done last year.

At the very first Say Their Names action, there were 9 columns of names and now there are 14 columns – not including the people killed at Rikers.

There is a lot that goes into making this action possible, and it's wonderful that we have kept the action going. We start off each week with low energy but then it works out wonderfully.

At some point it would be helpful to have a fuller discussion about how to proceed and move ahead with the action, or keep it as it is, etc. This Friday the start time will be 5pm but the weather doesn't look good.

10/23 Taxi Workers Alliance - Medallion Debt Forgiveness (ERT vote)

The action started after people became aware that the taxi strike was taking place. People were at City Hall and learned about the horrendousness of the situation: How this is all about greed and bank criminality. Livvie got the momentum going in terms of getting people to sign up to help via the hunger strike solidarity.

People meet at 11am every morning to pass the hunger strike solidarity baton in the relay to uplift the Taxi Workers' campaign.

To learn more about the fast, and to join: email Stu at Waldman@mikaya.com, or Livvie at elizabethmann.livvie@gmail.com.

This is a lot like the debt crisis in 2008 when predatory lenders got people to overextend their budgets – but in this case the NYC government is the culprit. The City saw a way to make money and set up auctions for the medallions. When the price was up to \$1 million, Uber started operating which basically made the medallions worthless. The City made a fortune in sales (~\$850M). When the Taxi Workers were in desperate debt they turned to predatory lenders, and after a while weren't making any money. The City made an offer which wasn't good at all: the debt could be restructured but the remaining salary would be less than minimum wage.

There is good momentum for the action. Recommend people go to City Hall and speak with the Taxi Workers to provide support. The action usually starts at noon every day.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3LKgOEqe1bU>

10/24 Anti-Asian Hate action

This was a performative action. Approximately 40-50 people attended. Brought the RAR Stop Asian Hate banner.

Most of the media have stopped covering the story but the hate continues. The NY Times covered this action:

<https://www.nytimes.com/2021/10/26/theater/covid-crime-stop-asian-hate.html>

10/25 NO CLIMATE NO DEAL action on the FDR and West Side Highway

Extinction Rebellion NYC and Sunrise led the organizing. Was a moving experience collaborating with so many young people (e.g., 20 year olds), many were never arrested before.

Purpose was to force the public to confront the true dangers of unchecked climate change. The climate justice activists want to keep Congress from cutting climate initiatives that were in the Democrats' Build Back Better plan.

It was a very effective action that shut down the FDR and WSH for almost 2.5 hours during rush hour traffic – on a Monday. 43 people were arrested.

Facilitation Announcements - Laura Tavormina teach-in next week on voting rights legislation. Can we skip meeting on December 28 (vote)

- Laura Tavormina will talk about the Freedom to Vote Act, and some of the differences with the People to Vote Act. Make sure to bring your questions. She's very good and very knowledgeable.
- Proposal to skip the 12/28th group meeting was put to the floor.
Proposal Approved

Upcoming Actions:

Thursday 10/28 Immigration Action 5PM at Staten Island Ferry Terminal

Two weeks ago RAR went to an event sponsored by the Haitian Alliance with others concerned about people seeking asylum from Haiti. RAR will continue with the same theme at the SI Ferry Terminal. Livvie has been in touch with some Haitian activists and there is a possibility they will be at the vigil. There will be signs and photos about the Haitian refugees.

Would be great to have a substantial number of people attend to help hold banners and signs.

Friday 10/29 at 12:30 Anniversary of Sandy Climate Action - Pearl St. & Robert Wagner Place

Will begin near the housing where Hurricane Sandy caused extensive damage. 372 Pearl Street. Marshals will gather at noon. Call for people to attend and hold signs, banners, or marshal.

The route will go to the Federal Reserve. Goal is to ask the Biden administration to appoint individuals to the Federal Reserve who are savvy of the climate change issues and how they impact the economy. One of the obligations is to maintain a stable economy and the climate affects the economy.

The next stop is Citibank, since it's the 2nd largest funder of fossil fuel projects. Investments aren't wise for their financial goals either.

March will take place regardless of the weather (e.g., rain or shine).

For more information and to marshal contact Ray Black at, rdiskinblack@gmail.com.

Saturday 10/30 Beds Not Body Bags - 1PM Flushing, Queens

Will take place at the Queens Public Library, either in the front of the plaza or side of the building. The is a Queens neighborhood that has not been to yet.

This is the 9th Beds Not Body Bags action. Asking for the administration to address the healthcare inequities for Queens residents (e.g., better Medicare reimbursement). Multiple state representatives are involved and are helpful in Albany to make changes (e.g., Jessica Ramos).

Monday, 11/1 Mike Pompeo at the Union League Club - 5PM 37th St. & Park Ave.

Pompeo was the last Secretary of State under Trump, didn't apologize for the insurrection, and pushed the big lie. The action's purpose is to hold Pompeo accountable for what he said and did between the 2020 General Election and when Biden was sworn in as 46th president. Will have a banner with the 14th Amendment printed on it.

As people enter the Club, they can ask them whether they believe Biden won the election.

Tuesday 11/2 Fox Lies - special election day action and 11/16 Fox is Toxic Health Care

Producing special signs for election day (e.g., Fox Spreads the Big Lie).

The 11/16th healthcare version is in development. Signs will feature Laura and Tucker, and there will be truth sandwiches. Planning to also have doctors and nurses present. Will indicate the number of people who died and when. Will also have gravestones.

Suggestion to tie the bigger issue of propaganda to the actions.

This is one of the most important actions that should be done. This is a matter of brainwashing.

Proposal to increase the budget by \$400 was put to the floor.

Proposal Approved

New Actions:

Friday 10/29 Metropolitan Republican Club 6 P.M. Trump Art Show - Parallel Universe....

A Russian artist is having an art show with Bernie Kerick as the guest of honor. Kerick was one of the January 6th insurrectionists. Would be good to have a contingent of people show up and protest. Weather looks bad so probably won't bring the Trump rat.

Climate Action Letter

NY Communities for Change and other groups have been asked to deliver a letter to the Bank of NY Mellon. The letter is about a coal mine located on Indigenous land. The goal is to try and get the banks to not finance the coal mine – this is a worldwide effort. The Bank of NY Mellon is going to finance the coal mine.

Request to have an RAR representative join other organizations as they deliver the Climate Action letter to the bank, was put to the floor.

Decision: Approved

Non Rise and Resist announcements

East River Park Civil Disobedience on Monday

The East River Park is being destroyed for a plan that will cost approximately \$2B which is more than what the City even has in the budget. They're going to destroy trees, landfill in the area, and then build a park on top of it. The construction is projected to take up to five years, but likely more. Unsure how Eric Adams feels about this project.

Construction starts Monday. People will be there at the Amphitheater in East River Park for civil disobedience, at 6:30am. For more information visit, <https://www.eastriverparkaction.org>

Court Watch - #ReleaseNotRikers rally Thursday Oct 28 12 noon 100 Centre St.

Rikers continues to be unbearable. District Attorneys continue to require bail that people cannot pay. It is very important to keep demonstrating on Rikers and demand an end to bail.

Give prisoners access to TAP grants

November 4th at 1:30pm, City Hall (Broadway entrance) Housing

This will be the first in-person event for supportive housing issues. SHOUT is the lead organizing group. They are starting to form the equivalent of Met Council for supportive housing.

Poor People's Campaign

Buses to DC will leave tomorrow/Wednesday, at 4:30am from Union Square. There are approximately 30 seats left.

Right now important decisions are being made in DC that will impact all of our lives – where our representatives land on the Build Back Better plan, voting rights, health care, climate change, and immigrant rights will fundamentally shift the trajectory of this nation, either towards a more just democracy for all or towards an increasing oligarchy for the few.

This is an emergency call to Washington DC for all of us who are opposed to Congress cutting life-saving, planet-saving, democracy-saving legislation and compromising on the backs of poor people, immigrants, people of color and the environment.

We have a bus leaving New York City this Wednesday, October 27th at approx. 4:30 AM!

REGISTER NOW to claim your seat on the bus!

*USE PROMO CODE "ppc1027" to ride for free!

**We are requiring all who are joining us to be fully vaccinated! Masks will be required indoors and while riding on the bus.

<https://rally.co/moral-witness-wednesday-in-dc/from/downtown-manhattan-ny>

RISE AND RESIST