

Rise and Resist General Meeting - Zoom Edition - 4.13.2021

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: Sru and Jay **Notes:** Maryellen

Good News

- Jennifer: (News from the Elevator Actions group) Thanks to grassroots efforts, funding that was raided by the MTA has been restored. Total amount of restorations is \$279M – better than what was expected. Money will help all of us get around the City.

- Jay: (News from Gays Against Guns) President Biden signed an Executive Order making ghost guns traceable, as well as other initiatives for gun violence prevention. The Biden administration is doing everything that can be done via Executive Orders to deal with the gun violence epidemic for the country.

- Elaine: Scientific American (publication) has decided to stop using the phrase “climate change” and is now using “climate emergency.” This is a big deal for them since they’re a traditional, famous journal that is taking on this new kind of terminology.

- Stu: Trump lost the election.

(5) What abstentions mean in RAR and what our bylaws say.

- Stu: During last week’s meeting there was confusion regarding abstentions as part of the voting process.

- Jamie: [Read the RAR Bylaws, Section 6 regarding voting]

a. Most issues to be voted on at regular meetings shall be decided by a simple majority of those present at the meeting in which the vote takes place. If there is a majority of abstentions the proposal does not pass.

b. Rise and Resist recognizes that other models of decision-making, including but not limited to consensus, may be more appropriate for certain decisions.

c. Elections for directors and other offices shall be conducted by ballot at the annual meeting.

During last week's meeting there were many abstentions during one vote. The way it was resolved at the time was that the person presenting realized there wasn't a lot of support from the group, and decided to withdraw the request. But technically it would have failed since the majority of the votes were abstentions.

RAR doesn't like to have something passed when there isn't a lot of support on the floor – we either reframe the actions, or not do them. The issue is that people don't like to vote “no” in general particularly when everyone can see how everybody is voting. But it's a difficult process for facilitators and people presenting when people don't vote. The recommendation from Facilitation is for everybody to vote. Don't not vote. Please vote, even if abstaining.

Jennifer B.: Don't usually vote in the meetings because sometimes the computer doesn't have a working camera. [Question] Is having a camera a requirement to vote? Another issue is that it's not entirely obvious as to whether new people - or people who rarely attend meetings - feel like they can/can't vote, or don't vote at all.

[Answer] Jay: Raise your hand digitally, or enter a vote in the chat.

Report backs

4/7 CCIA action in Union Sq

- Livvie: NYS passed a climate law that was considered amazing, throughout the nation. But since there wasn't any money to support it, the law was essentially meaningless. CCIA was designed to remedy that by putting into place a system to make polluters pay, and then use the monies for funding jobs. There are only 7 weeks left for the bill to pass.

Last Wednesday, the CCIA action was a collaborative effort with other groups. The action began at Union Square (by the Climate Countdown Clock). There was a drummer from Rude Mechanical Orchestra, politicians, singing, and then everyone marched to Union Square Park.

Jay was a very good Master of Ceremonies at Union Square Park.

It was a successful, collaborative action that also included the Nurses Union.

- Jenny: Wasn't able to attend. But it felt like a very connected action to address what is going on (e.g., the sadness, the caring, etc.). Found it moving from afar.

(5) 4/8 Immigration Vigil at South Ferry

- Jamie: Brought more signs and new photographs to make the experience a little more real. There's a pretty good flow of people going in and out of the Staten Island Ferry Terminal, and a lot of immigrants. Overall, it was a very successful vigil.

One RAR person is designated to stand and marshal during the action in order to watch everything going on - for safety purposes. That felt good for people.

A few people took their pictures with the banner, and briefly joined the action.

- Ray: Had wonderful interactions and conversations with strangers. No matter what the preconceived notion is about people stepping up to talk, the end result is always different. Sometimes there are conversations with people who don't understand what's happening, or what the point of the action is. Or they have generic questions. It's great to help them understand.

- Livvie: Like the location at the Ferry Terminal. It's better than the Oculus.

- Judy: The next SI ferry immigration action is 4/22nd.

4/8 Chuck the Filibuster at Chuck's residence

- Jay: It was really nice – a lot of fun. A good gathering of people (approx. 25-30). Good number of speakers, a couple of district leaders, several people from Indivisible Brooklyn. A list of Schumer's phone numbers was distributed. People sang songs. At the end of the action, people called Schumer's Albany office and chanted "Chuck the Filibuster" over and over again – which was fun and cathartic. It was a great day - great weather to be outside.

- Jay: There was a formerly incarcerated person who spoke about his voting experience – which was very powerful. When people have completed their sentence, their right to vote is restored. But in NYS, when someone is on parole they can't vote.

- Livvie: The formerly incarcerated speaker said "I was sentenced to 3 years for drugs. I wasn't sentenced to civic death." And that phrase stayed with her because that's what they're being sentenced to [a civic death]. Was a very powerful moment.

[Question] Stu: What did the eyes in the signs represent at the action?

[Answer] Jay: We're keeping our eyes on you [Schumer], and watching you [Schumer].

(5) 4/9 Say Their Names 96th St./5PM Fridays

- Jenny: Although it rained for approx. 10 minutes it was a very good experience to be there and hold the space. Glad to be doing this action.

- Jay: There was maybe one negative reaction from a passerby, but didn't confront the group. There were a lot of beeping horns in approval by passing motorists. Really positive experience.

4/10 Banner Action in Madison Square - Trial in the killing of George Floyd

- Jackie: This action feels akin to the Say Their Names action because it draws attention to what is going on now: Black people are being killed. The RAR banners are perfect – every one of them is bold and beautiful. Got some very positive reactions this time [on 4/10].

Been watching the George Floyd trial, and saw what happened over the weekend with yet another man being killed in a traffic violation. We/RAR cannot be out there enough. Maybe during the next banner action there will be an opportunity to walk the [Take Your Knee Off His Neck] banner around the [Madison Square] park. There are plenty of protesters in the streets, but not many focused on this specific message. The situation is getting worse, not better.

4/12 Justice for Daunte Wright

- Jay: Went to the Justice for Daunte Wright march in Washington Square Park. There was a good number of people who showed up - including the press. A few people spoke. The action was done in connection with the people who organize the weekly Stonewall protest (e.g., Josephine). After a few speeches that weren't very long, the group marched up 5th Avenue to 14th Street (against traffic), and West on 14th Street to 7th Avenue (against traffic), up 7th Avenue.

Police kept their distance at first, but when the group passed the 10th Precinct block (20th Street and 10th Avenue) the cops deployed about 40 officers against barricades and blocked the entrance to 20th Street. The group continued walking north on 7th Avenue. Another group of cops followed at a decent distance in the back. The group continued marching to Times Square. At this point, people noticed a few of the marchers were missing so the group went back towards 36th Street and saw a police van driving off.

Someone was arrested before they were able to formally join the marchers. Police claimed Queen Jean had some kind of weapon – which people with her denied. The situation got tense. Queen Jean had bullhorn. Haven't heard more about how and why the person was arrested.

The Brooklyn Justice for Daunte Wright march was much larger because it was during the evening, when people were able to attend (after work/school). There was some kettling on one of the bridges (Manhattan Bridge?).

Cops are poorly trained. They escalate from zero to 100.

- Stu: During one of the evening news programs, an African American pundit couldn't contain how upset he was about the way the police treated Army Lt. Caron Nazario during a traffic stop. This is another "last straw." But we keep having these "last straws." The pundit demonstrated real fear. It's important for me to realize as a white man, that I can't understand the situation in the same way. Because my life isn't in danger as African American people's lives are. Really keep reminding myself of that.

- Roberta: Not only are the cops poorly trained, they're terrified. It's an overreaction and they're freaking out. [Jay: And the cops have three weapons, and they're acting like they're afraid for their lives.] Liked the optics – the violent gear, weapons, and batons on the police. But the health care workers are sporting garbage bags.

- Eve: They don't want to say it's a matter of training.

- Jackie: Not about training. It's racially motivated. Couldn't believe how long the press conference lasted. Regular people were on camera (e.g., MSNBC, CNN). Mainly Black people who were there and yelled their truth: You go for a drive. But when I go, I'm putting my life in my hands. Gives all of us a major reminder about what it's like to wake up Black and do anything – especially drive a car. It was horrifying but gratifying that people were able to speak - to say what they needed to say. Amazing.

Upcoming Actions

Bankrupt Line 3 Saturday 4/17 -12:30 Blackrock 45 E 51st St.

- Jonathan: This action is connected to STMP (Stop The Money Pipeline) funders of fossil fuel, Enbridge Line 3. Coalitioned with other organizations (e.g., XR, Brooklyn 350, and Rainforest Action Network). The march will proceed down Park Avenue to the Chase Headquarters. Chase is building a new headquarters across from their old headquarters.

Blackrock is the huge investor in fossil fuels, pipelines, and everything we're trying to desperately turn around. The Climate Countdown Clock [near Union Square Park] is ticking down to a time when we can't turn around.

This will be a cool action that will include different versions of the "eyes" signage, skits, Rev. Billy and the Stop Shopping Choir, Rude Mechanical Orchestra, etc. There will be marshals, props, banners (e.g., RAR's "Stop Funding Climate Disaster"), live streaming, and a march around the construction site. There will also be a vague action [discussed during the meeting but no notes were taken]. Request for people to attend.

- Katrina: This will be a different location than where the XR person was hurt during another action.

Immigration Vigil Thursday 4/22 at 5PM at Staten Island Ferry Terminal

- Jamie: Nicole Malliotakis is trying to raise money. She recently visited the border to witness cartels allegedly bringing people across the border, and then severely criticized the Biden administration for not closing the border.

The reason why that is happening is because people cannot present themselves at the border to seek asylum. It's important that immigrants have a right to present themselves for asylum, and they are being denied that right. This is part of Title 42 issue - at the southern border people are not being allowed into the US because of COVID-19. Border patrol is only taking in unaccompanied minors. Republicans are fundraising off of this and turning the situation into a different kind of crisis than it really is. It's important for RAR to be at the Staten Island Terminal to remind people in Staten Island that people have a right to seek asylum - not just a moral right but it's US law.

It's really important that we not let the immigration issue fade away as everyone becomes complacent about the many good things the Biden administration is doing. There are many areas where we can increase awareness and let people think about these types of issues.

- Mike: It's clear the Republicans are putting pressure on immigration issues (e.g., invasion). Biden is being taken to task for not reversing Trump's asylum at the border, but pre-approved refugees are not being allowed in.

[Question] Jay: News coverage seems like the kids are arriving unaccompanied at the border. Are we seeing now that the kids are arriving with their family members?

[Answer] Jamie: What's happening is most of the kids arriving already have relatives that are here [in the US] and they are being reunited. Defacto being separated at the border because the US is not allowing the family in to seek asylum. They have family connections; border patrol should let them stay with their families until their cases come up.

[Question] Jay: Are people within the Northern Triangle Disasters qualified as refugees?
Is there a specific designation for people coming up from the border?

[Answer] Jamie: They're not letting anyone in. And they're trying to stop people from crossing through Mexico. The US has closed the border, except to unaccompanied minors.

- Stu: It's important for us to note their desperation, and that this is nothing new at all. Just the way we're treating it. Same situation since 1924 when a racist immigration system took over.

- Leon: During the Immigration vigils, has been standing at the subway station near the Ferry Terminal. The vast majority of people coming off the subway are Spanish speakers - a lot of immigrants traveling through there. Malliotakis is hitching her wagon to anti-immigration policy. It's a good way for us/RAR to challenge her. It's a good action to continue in that spot for as long as possible.

- Ray: There are a lot of teens coming into the country by themselves. Any policy our government has that would encourage one parent to make the choice to leave their kids, to sacrifice their child so the child can live is inhumane - that it's happening at our border is inhumane. This has happened before in history

- Jonathan: We've done a lot of work at the Staten Island Ferry Terminal, which is great. But want to keep in mind how America views both NY and itself. The action is two steps away from the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island. Have to hold that in our hearts while we're there [at the Terminal]. There is good and bad attached to both places. A lot of us are in one way or another connected by those who arrived [through Ellis Island]. Have a little bit of focus in that direction - to the left - during the vigils.

New Actions

May 7-8 24 hour Filibuster to End the Filibuster

- Rick: Tom Gilroy's idea, but he isn't available to organize.

Idea is to filibuster at one of Schumer's apartments (Brooklyn). Set up for 24 hours starting at noon on May 7th and end at noon on May 8th. There will be a farmer's market at the location on Saturday morning. During the 24 hours people will talk, read, livestream, and reenact the filibuster. Other ideas include: read from the Constitution, read topical stories/news, etc. Name of the action is to be determined. Should be able to get a lot of attention (e.g., from press). Banner, signs, podium, videographer streamers, lights, props, and other things to make action this happen. Will need people to sign up for a shift during the 24 hours (e.g., 15 - 30 minutes).

- Livvie: Definite interest from groups in Brooklyn: Indivisible BK, Common Cause, Housing Works, etc. But there are a lot of details to take care of. Someone volunteered a bathroom. Maybe students will participate during the afternoon for a civics activity. There is a lot of work involved in organizing this. If anyone is remotely interested, come to tomorrow's actions meeting (Wednesday/April 14th) and work on this.

- Jenny: What about doing the Say Their Names action there at some point during the

24 hours. - Jackie: Send the press release to Jackie, when it's available.

[Question/comment] Jay: Schumer isn't the villain in this piece. Joe Manchin is the villain. Understand that Schumer is the Majority Leader but when Joe Manchin writes an op-ed declaring under no circumstances will he vote for anything that's related to ending the filibuster, it seems that targeting Schumer and making him the villain is a little off.

- Mark: Idea is to read certain things from the Federalist Papers, Constitution, Bill of Rights, famous speeches from American History (e.g., Frederick Douglas, MLK), talk about various bills being blocked from the Senate because of the current form of the filibuster (e.g., gun control bills, etc.). Could be some cultural aspects to it. Brainstorming feedback during the actions committee meeting tomorrow (Wednesday/April 14th).

- Stu: If interested in contributing, please attend the Actions meeting (Wednesday/April 14th). [Note: Email Jamie Bauer for Actions meeting Zoom URL.]

- Katrina: Try and reach out to Met Council as one of the partners for this action. Also, the Coalition for the Homeless may be interested.

Vote for approval presented to floor: Passed unanimously

Beds Not Body Bags action

- Leon: Saturday, May 8th at 2pm. Do outreach to community groups. Rufus Kings Park is large. At the northern end of the park there was a hospital called Mary Immaculate, but it closed and was turned into luxury housing. Now there is only one hospital left in Jamaica. The neighborhood is historically distressed (e.g., homeless).

Since the location is a park there isn't a lot of walking traffic so the action may include a walking tour to a nearby pedestrian mall. There are a lot of people moving through the mall at all times. The neighborhood used to have large anchor stores (e.g., Macys) but then they closed and transformed the space into a large market with little booths inside – which is common in Queens.

Rufus King Park was a former estate of Rufus King who was a lawyer and statesman. One of the original signers of the United States Constitution and a leader in the early anti-slavery movement.

- Mark: May want to rethink the date if it conflicts with the filibuster action. Focuses on the issue of hospital equity across the City. Been doing these actions in Queens: Jackson Heights, Elmhurst, Corona, and Sunnyside – areas hardest hit by the pandemic (and same is true for Jamaica).

- Robert: Great location and easy to get to.

- Mark and Leon: LIRR has a large hub in Jamaica. There are a number of ways to get there. F train is close.

[Question] Virginia: Any handout or ask?

[Answer] Mark: Yes, always have an action leaflet at every Beds Not Body Bags action.

- Leon: Donovan Richards is the new Queens Borough President. He's particularly interested in Jamaica, and he may come to this action.

[Note: Don't need approval for this action. But asking for people to attend.]

*Pfizer coalition action

- Mark: Healthcare action group is the lead for organizing this action.

Approx. a month ago, there was a direct action with groups gathered outside Pfizer. Was in consultation of the global day of action calling attention to a proposal to the world trade organization to grant a waiver for COVID-19 vaccines. So, developing nations could seize the patents and mass produce the vaccines. Predictions are that it could be another 2 -3 years before the world is fully vaccinated.

This time, for this action, going back to Pfizer with a different scenario. Major drug holders will be holding annual shareholders meetings online to address issues including: aspects of global patents and vaccines, amount of funding from governments, and other similar issues. RAR will join with Center for Popular Democracy, ACT UP, and VOCAL-NY for a People Shareholder meeting. We will bring together our own proposals that we think Pfizer should be adopting as part of the whole issue of global access to the vaccine.

Going to be **Thursday, April 22nd (at noon), 42nd Street and 2nd Ave.**

Earlier that morning, Pfizer will be holding it's own shareholder meeting (9am – 11am).

Usually, the shareholder meeting is in person, but this time it'll be online. There are indications that the business press that follows the pharmaceutical industry is very interested in the pushback from the "People's Vaccine Movement." There is a lot of buzz on Capitol Hill for the need to open vaccines globally. The

Biden administration is feeling the heat from the pressure. Everyone will be watching what the new US trade rep will be saying about this issue tomorrow (Wednesday/April 14th).

- Ann: There will be street theater. It'll be fun. RAR co-sponsored the first Pfizer vaccine action.

Vote for co-sponsorship presented to floor: Passed unanimously

Non Rise and Resist announcements

Youth Solidarity Action

- Robert: There will be a youth solidarity action in May, organized by high school students. They're requesting marshals.

- Cynthia Leung: Brooklyn Tech High School student. Purpose for this action is BIPOC solidarity, and governmental institutional change. Working with local communities to fix messaging: legal definition of a hate crime, police system, but mostly this is an action to hold a movement for BIPOC solidarity led by young people.

Need marshals because all organizers are underage and BIPOC. Understand there is an action already scheduled on May 8th. The date for the Youth Solidarity action can change.

- Robert: The route is Cadman Plaza [Brooklyn] to City Hall [Manhattan]. The students

have really thought things out, would like mutual aid, are committed to non-violence and wearing masks.

- Jamie: Volunteered to share information about how to marshal actions (e.g., how to keep control of own demonstration, keep people safe, etc.). Optics of having teenagers marshalled by older people isn't ideal.

- Jenny: There are a group of considerably older activists who might like to pass the baton in the way that it needs to be taken. It's extremely moving and crucial that we know that young people are moving forward and leading the way.

- Jonathan: Second what Jenny and Jamie said. Training can be short and sweet with elements of direct action. Thanked Cynthia for reaching out to RAR via Robert.

Cosecha Action

- Teresa Shen: (Saturday) May 1st is International Workers Day, and people are mobilizing to DC. There is a direct action planned on (Friday) April 30th in DC. They're providing transportation and accommodations. A bus is leaving Thursday for Friday's direct action, another bus is leaving Friday for Saturday's march.

Request: People who can risk arrest, and people who want to join the March in different roles (e.g., marshalls, attendees, etc.).

Will check with the Cosecha partnerships team to see if they want sponsors or endorsements.

Event is posted to Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/events/770956373851954>. Event contact information: tys2102@gmail.com, or (347) 882-8867.

East River Park Action

- Virginia: <https://eastriverparkaction.org/actions-now>

Rent Relief

Katrina: Will provide details during next week's RAR meeting.

RISE AND RESIST