

Rise and Resist General Meeting - Zoom Edition - 5.16.2023

Rise and Resist Contact Information

- Website: www.riseandresist.org
- Email list signup <http://eepurl.com/cCzq1X>
- Twitter: www.twitter.com/RiseandResistNY
- Facebook: www.facebook.com/RiseandResistNYC/
- 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](#).

Facilitators: Cherie and Paul **Note Taker:** Sandy

GOOD NEWS!

New process for non RAR announcements or to put other things on the agenda: Use rar.facilitation@gmail.com before 3PM on Monday!

GOOD NEWS!

- ◆George Santos arrested and charged with multiple felonies,
- ◆Rudy Giuliani sued for sexual harassment +++ by former employee who “has the tapes”...

UPCOMING ACTIONS

May 18, Thursday 5 PM--Immigration Vigil at Staten Island Ferry Terminal

Title 42 ended. Finally rescinded. Can't use covid as a reason to refuse people applying for asylum. Have effectively blocked people from applying at the border which they should have a right to do. While Fox projected a rush to the border, this has not materialized. The crisis is that there are legitimate asylum applicants and they are not being allowed to enter the U.S. These issues will be raised this Thursday. Last time we received a slightly more hostile reaction than usual.

May 19, Friday 8:30 AM--Close Rikers - City Hall Park

Close Rikers budget action at City Hall Park. We want a budget that funds real safety and urgent community needs rather than a bloated department of corrections.

May 24, Wednesday 5 pm—Care Not Criminalization—Foley Square

Relates to all the city issues and the mayor's defunding the parts of the budget that will help with the issues that we need support for. The Freedom agenda is asking for people to come out to

help in doing phone banks to get people to come to the demonstration on the 24th. Contact Donna at donnagould@earthlink.net.

May 25, Thursday at time TBD--Bannon's next court appearance in NYC

Details to follow. No information available yet about the timing. Currently scheduled for 9 am but Bannon has generally appeared at 2 pmish. Want to highlight the damage he has done to this country.

May 31/June 1—Wednesday/Thursday at 6:45 pm--Chase "Corporate Challenge Run" in Central Park

This is a save-the-date. Annual "greenwashing" event that Chase does where they try to appear as a good guy to the community. Will coordinate with John Rozendaal at Xr.

Rapid Response for Abortion

Tomorrow a judge from the 5th circuit is reviewing the decision by the Texas judge on the abortion pill. If the case results in something outrageous we may put something together quickly.

Anyone can email wendyindivisible@gmail.com to be added to the **abortion rapid-response** email.

Halt Solitary/Close Rikers updates

Last week there was an anti-racism meeting held by Beth Elohim, a synagogue in Park Slope. They are tackling the problem of Rikers through supportive housing. Estimating that 2,500 at Rikers have serious mental illness. 1,000 of them could be released if there was supportive housing available. Supply is way below what is needed. Most supportive housing requires you to be homeless for a period of time. If you're in Rikers, you're not considered homeless. This group is asking that we speak to our representatives and ask for something specific. Alex is seeking what that something specific is and will add to this report next week.

In the meantime, Mayor Adams is seeking to save \$17 million in the budget for support services, including housing for those in Rikers.

REPORTS BACK

May 10 and 16--Drag Story Hour at NYPL

The one on 96th street was pretty wild. Biden was in town. The police barricades were all the way to 5th avenue. Large police presence. Barricades everywhere. 8 or 9 of us were there and 8-9 of the protesters. The police set up a pen for the protestors right by the doorway with the parents and the kids. We stood outside the pen. The police tried to convince us to go into the pen. If we did then the protestors would go into the pen. The police were asking us to "take the moral high ground".

On May 16, we showed up and there were no protesters there. This one was on 58th St. 5 or 6 of us today; about 10 toddlers went into the event.

May 10 and 11--Albany Actions at the Democratic Committee Meeting

The first Democratic State Committee Member meeting of 2023 was held in Albany on May 10 and 11. RaR Elections planned an action for Thursday morning, May 11 at 10 am to highlight what a mess the NY State Democratic Party is and to urge the leaders to "Fix this mess". According to the agenda for this meeting, this corresponded to a break which would enable good attendance at the action. In addition to signs and a banner, we created a flyer (link below).

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/mzdw57pccihwowv/RAR.albanyflier3.pdf?dl=0>

We spent much of Wednesday evening and early Friday morning handing out as many flyers as we could (estimate about 250). The front of the flyer laid out our premise about what a mess the NY State Democratic party is and invited everyone to a rally and press conference at 10 am. We suspect that meeting schedules were rearranged to tie most of the members up so they would not have a break at that time. This is why we think very few showed up at our rally (maybe 7 or 8 people).

While the rally was a disappointment, the flyer turned out to have a significant impact. Jay Jacobs, Chair of the State Democratic Party, who presided over the big meeting on Thursday, opened his remarks by holding up our flyer and spending the next 20 minutes defending himself against the points in our flyer. It clearly got under his skin. Meantime, many of the 200+ attendees had the flyer with them during the meeting because the back side of the flyer contained Alexandra's very good summaries of the seven resolutions the group was to vote on.

We believe some very important groundwork has been laid for raising awareness that the NY Democratic Party has to change, and that Jay Jacobs is not the right one to lead that change. Our hope is that we can work between now and the next State Committee Meeting in September to convince more State Committee members to join the Replace Jay Jacobs movement.

May 11--Climate Families Citibank Climate Action

Citibank is the second worst funder of the climate catastrophe. This bank is the most potentially moveable. Several RaRers were there. Beautiful action, very colorful. Mother's Day theme. CEO of Citibank is a mother of two children. The overall idea was to pull her mother's heartstrings. Giant Mother's Day card, flowers, storybook, mother's day theme.

Another climate action group led by mothers: <https://mothersrebellion.com/>

May 11--Halt Solitary at Hochul's Office

Good energy. Speakers talked about how important it is to end solitary. Solitary survivors spoke and it was very moving. Talked about what we can do to fire up the Governor to do the right thing. The law has been changed but now they must adhere to the law. Law passed 2 years ago and not obeying the law. People are being held much longer than the law states so the law is being violated. It's up to the Governor to make sure the law is abided by.

May 12--Say Their Names - (every Friday at 5PM at 96th & Bway)

Thanks to Paul, Virginia, and Kat who were marshals. It was quiet this week. The energy the week before was very tense because that was on the heels of the Neely murder. This week's action went well. We've added that it's a weekly vigil of people murdered by law enforcement and vigilantes. Always a meaningful action.

Stu raised the issue of de-escalating when someone who is mentally ill comes by. We need an approach and/or training for how to deal with people in distress.

May 13--Moms Demand Action

This well-attended rally was focused on demanding an assault weapons ban in response to the mass shooting in Allen, TX. This was a very spirited, well-organized rally with great speakers. It was part of a national event. Moms Demand Action was formed after Sandy Hook and started with 10,000 members and is now up to 1 million. Speakers included a member of the NY State Assembly, Amy Schumer, and ended with Jay Walker giving a high-energy call to action followed by everyone texting Chuck Schumer to urge him to call for a vote on the assault weapon ban legislation.

Moms Demand Action are planning another rally and walk across Brooklyn Bridge, Saturday, June 3, at noon.

May 15--FOX "upfront" Advertisers' Day Action

This was an extremely successful action. Kudos to Julie for organizing it and bringing in MoveOn and Media Matters as partners who picked up the majority of the expenses. These two groups also brought their social media clout to bear. However, it is Rise and Resist that led the action and enabled us to get up close and personal with attendees at the ad buy event. We definitely had an effect on attendees. Many held their heads in shame and seem embarrassed as they entered while we shouted: Why are you funding Fox lies? Fox is toxic. Fox is poison. Fox is bad for business.

Lots of news coverage. A Daily News photo had the title—"Truth be told? On Fox it isn't, protesters say." Our messaging really got through.

https://www.mediapost.com/publications/article/385420/why-fox-news-upfront-ad-pitch-is-40-full-of-it.html?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_content=headline&utm_campaign=130295&hashid=XIZbtDIUSuC2DOXivEHaa

May 16--Truth Tuesdays at FOX "News" - (every Tuesday at 47th & 6th Ave. As of Tuesday, May 23, the action will begin at 10 am instead of noon so we can avoid the maximum sun exposure)

Another Tuesday with great turnout. We held the space for an hour, handed out many flyers, and received lots of supportive feedback from those passing by. As noted above, **these weekly actions will now begin at 10 am.**

NON-RAR ANNOUNCEMENTS

Drag march on June 23—final night of pride weekend.

It's permitted. We need marshals. Tompkins Sq to Stonewall.

Email Robert if you can marshal at rroon@gmail.com.

Robert recommends a movie called Radioactive—women of Three Mile Island.

Shows grassroots action over the years since Three Mile Island.

At the Quad Cinema. 8 pm on May 23.

<https://us20.campaign-archive.com/?e=5eaff13c1e&u=1b45555c6d3fe548b171b1484&id=4b7a5e4dfe>

Wendy's Weekly Action Newsletter

<https://mailchi.mp/f83ae2a48dfb/tell-advertisers-drop-fox-news>

RISE AND RESIST