

## Rise and Resist General Meeting - Zoom Edition - 8.30.2022

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### Rise and Resist Contact Information

- Website: [www.riseandresist.org](http://www.riseandresist.org)
  - Email list signup <http://eepurl.com/cCzq1X>
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  - General email: [info@riseandresist.org](mailto:info@riseandresist.org)
  - Press email: [media@riseandresist.org](mailto:media@riseandresist.org)
  - Meetings: Every Tuesday at 7pm on Zoom. To sign up for the Zoom meeting [click here](#)
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**Facilitators:** Jay and Jennifer    **Notes:** Sandy    23 people attending

### GOOD NEWS!

- Gustavo Rivera and Robert Jackson win their primaries beating back the IDC.
- Biden announces a debt forgiveness program for student loans and snipes back about Republicans who had PPP debt forgiven.

### UPCOMING/NEW ACTIONS:

#### 9/7 Support at Court Appearance for Schumer Action

Latest information on when and where is 9 am at 100 Centre but it is not yet final.

Ron Kuby is representing the 12 people who were arrested and charged with criminal trespass.

**9/7 INDICT Action at 1 pm**—First Weds of each month. Last couple were at Trump Tower. Will set the time based on the weather. Final time to be set at this week's Actions Meeting.

**Date TBD--Immigration Vigils**—Don't have a date set yet for our first one to get back on the two-week cycle. Jenny has Sept. 8 at 5 pm—location TBD.

#### 10/2--Elevator Actions - Disability Pride Parade

—Noon at Madison Square  
The parade is to celebrate the settlement with the MTA that promises that all stations will be made accessible. Martin is organizing a float for the parade. Parade march will be from Madison Square to Union Square where there will be tables for organizations to use to get their message across. Elevator group's message will be "Settlement has been reached but the hard work doesn't stop."

<http://disabilitypridenyc.org/>

**VOTED TO SPONSOR THIS EVENT AND APPROVED \$200**

### HONORING AND REMEMBERING MEL STEVENS

We lost Mel very shortly after Mel lost his partner Timothy. Mel was in Florida visiting his sister in

Sarasota. They spent a day on a boat and at the beach. Mel went to swim in the ocean, had a heart attack, and died almost instantly. He was with family and didn't suffer, in many ways, a perfect death. That said, we were all very sad to see him go so quickly after Tim's passing. Alvin, Wendy, Ray, and Jennifer B. got together and did a ceremony in front of Mel and Tim's apartment to honor his death. It was a Chinese burial ritual which involved bowing your head three times. We repeated this ritual at the Tuesday meeting.

Several members shared stories of time they spent with Mel as well as Mel and Tim together. They were filled with mentions of Mel's warmth, kindness, and authenticity. It was a real loss to our community.

## **RECAP AND DISCUSSION OF AUGUST PRIMARIES - THE GOOD, THE BAD, THE UGLY...**

**The good news** reported above was that Gustavo Rivera and Robert Jackson won their primaries beating back the IDC. It was a real tribute to basic grassroots work to get out the vote.

**The bad news** was in District 10, a very progressive district. Because the progressive vote got split, Dan Goldman, a real centrist, won by a very small margin receiving just 25% of the 10% of the registered voters who turned out. One peculiar thing mentioned about District 10 was literature sent out from a fake progressive PAC. The literature claimed that candidate Yuh-Line Niou had fought to keep senior LGBTQ housing out of the district. But her opposition to this policy was because it would mean the destruction of a beautiful community garden which made the claim very misleading. Turns out the Real Estate Board of NY was behind it.

**The mixed news** was in District 12 where Nadler routed Maloney. Some members who voted for Maloney were disappointed, citing that she showed up to actions and was a strong supporter of both women and the gay community. Others were glad she lost because she had spoken against vaccines and made some questionable votes in her past.

From Julie in chat: Please donate to and work for Democratic governors and state secretary of state candidates -- esp. Arizona (Katie Hobbs), Wisconsin (Tony Evers), and Pennsylvania (Josh Shapiro). The GOP candidates WILL throw out any vote results that don't go GOP.

## **REPORT BACKS**

### **8/24 & 8/26 CitiBank Climate Actions**

Cherie--14 adult activists went to CitiBank Headquarters during lunch and passed out about 100 flyers to their employees and had a rally with signs and a banner. We had high visibility even though most employees wouldn't take flyers. Citi knew we were coming because we had publicized it and had given their employees notice and had at least a dozen security personnel waiting outside to monitor us and check Citi IDs. Several of us interacted with their Chief Sustainability Officer who was quite defensive. Citi was nervous and feeling the heat. The very next day they announced that they were winding down their local and commercial banking operations in Russia!

The next evening about 9 activists (including 2 from RaR—Cherie and Susan) went to the Citi Taste of Tennis dinner at Cipriani. 6 of us flyered and held signs and banner outside, informing attendees and passersby about Citi's connection to Russian oil companies, and three went inside, where they distributed coasters designed to look like gifts from Citibank with a QR code

explaining the Russian oil involvement, and ultimately, they unfurled a banner inside. Security freaked out. The activists were removed from the venue. No one was arrested.

Citi's plans to wind down Russian consumer and commercial operations got press all over - WSJ, Financial Times, Reuters, Bloomberg.

Susan who attended with Cherie noted that the action itself was disorganized and unpleasant to participate in.

### **8/26 Malliotakis Action—Fun on Fifth**

About 6 or 7 RaRers met at 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue and 86<sup>th</sup> St. to flier at a festival. Unfortunately, it had rained around 3 pm that afternoon and, while it didn't scare us off, it did keep festival goers away. There were very few people there. We did pass out a few flyers and had one good interaction with a woman at a table who took a bunch of flyers to hand out herself. We ended up walking from 86<sup>th</sup> St. to 77<sup>th</sup> St. and getting the subway back to Manhattan.

### **8/29--8/29 Zeldin and Malliotakis rally at Staten Island Elks**

Malliotakis and Lee Zeldin are having a series of rallies called Save Our State. One Immigration heckler showed up. One woman was Birddogging Malliotakis about abortion rights. There were 4 adults and a 10-year-old; 2 of the adults got freaked out by the MAGA people and left. Jamie and Crystie birddogged Malliotakis and didn't get thrown out. Jamie and Crystie agreed to hold up their signs when they spoke and within 2 minutes, the Elks' security squad asked them to leave. Jamie told them that they would wait to hear from the police to find out what law they were breaking before they would leave. The police did finally come and told them they were trespassing, gave them a warning, and they left. Below is a link to an article in Staten Island Live which describes the event and quotes Jamie.

<https://www.silive.com/news/2022/08/more-than-200-rally-with-gop-gubernatorial-candidate-lee-zeldin-on-staten-island.html?outputType=amp>

### **8/26 Say Their Names (every Friday at 5:00PM at 96th & Broadway)**

Small but strong group last Friday. Started off with some tension. Vince as a marshal walked over to a disruptive homeless person, held his hand out and said Hi what's your name; my name is Vince, successfully de-escalating the situation. A woman bought 15 sunflowers for the group to say thank you. She said if I start speaking, I am going to cry.

### **8/30 Truth Tuesdays at FOX every Tuesday at 10AM 47th & 6th Ave.**

Lots of people stopped to take pictures. Two people flyering is good. Often when we don't get them to take a flyer on one side, they will take it on the other side once they have seen the action itself and know what it's about. Signage was great. We have nice cloud coverage so it wasn't so hot. A lot of good chalking; e.g. Take a selfie and piss off your uncle Billy. AND, we finally got a FOX picture in the NY Times.

## **NON-RAR ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Robert C.--The month-long Review Conference of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty which exists to provide arsenals "in a timely fashion" ended without a document. It's been 52 years and there are still 15,000 nuclear weapons in the world. The consensus document was blocked by Russia, but it was really sabotaged by all the nuclear weapons states. Here's a good report on it.

<https://reachingcriticalwill.org/disarmament-fora/npt/2022/nir/16321-npt-news-in-review-vol-17-no-10>

**9/8-10 Ibogaine for the World [Virtual] Conference--Dana announcement**

[https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZEufuiqrzgpEtF1kfe4qOQLTPAq\\_iTt4ym8](https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZEufuiqrzgpEtF1kfe4qOQLTPAq_iTt4ym8)

**9/8 Climate Action in DC—Stop the Dirty Pipeline Deal with Senator Manchin**

BUS INFO leaves NYC 10am for lobby meets at the Capitol; Rally 5-7pm. Bus is free, but you need to sign up by clicking on the link below:

<https://actionnetwork.org/events/washington-dc-rally-stop-the-mountain-valley-pipeline/> back in NYC ~ 11:30pm

**Closed caption issue**—a request was made to make sure the closed caption option on zoom is operational for those who are hard of hearing. We will work to get login information from Stu when he's away so we can activate it in his absence.

**Wendy's Weekly Action Newsletter**

If you missed it, my weekly action newsletter is out, featuring Rise and Resist as always:

<https://mailchi.mp/b913e6bd18c9/get-your-final-free-covid-tests-this-week>

**### RISE AND RESIST ###**