

## Rise and Resist General Meeting - Zoom Edition - 1.18.2022

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### Rise and Resist Contact Information

- Website: [www.riseandresist.org](http://www.riseandresist.org)
  - Email list signup <http://eepurl.com/cCzq1X>
  - Twitter: [www.twitter.com/RiseandResistNY](https://www.twitter.com/RiseandResistNY)
  - Facebook: [www.facebook.com/RiseandResistNYC/](https://www.facebook.com/RiseandResistNYC/)
  - Instagram: [www.instagram.com/risenresistnyc/](https://www.instagram.com/risenresistnyc/)
  - 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:** Alex and Jay    **Notes:** Maryellen

**New policy for requesting Elizabeth to be present for ASL Interpretation** - Elizabeth has been ASL interpreter for RAR meetings during the last two years. It's been clear for some time that the most frequent meeting goers do not require her ASL services. At Elizabeth's suggestion a new policy has been implemented (as a trial run): A note about available accessibility services, specifically for Elizabeth's ASL services, will be included in the weekly email that announces the RAR general meeting. The note is as follows:

"To our Deaf and Hard of Hearing membership, **we are happy to arrange an ASL interpreter** for our meetings and actions. We do need advanced notice in order to provide this accommodation. At Rise and Resist, we are committed to equality and **accessibility** for all. To request an interpreter or discuss accommodations going forward please email us at: [media@riseandresist.org](mailto:media@riseandresist.org)" - Suggestion: Include detailed guidelines for how Elizabeth, an ASL interpreter can be requested.

**Good News** - Ohio Supreme Court struck down GOP Gerrymandering, Oathkeepers indicted for Seditious Conspiracy

- Ohio Supreme Court Judge's comments were read during meeting:  
[https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/ohio-redistricting/2022/01/14/338009aa-755d11ec-8b0a-bcfab800c430\\_story.htm](https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/ohio-redistricting/2022/01/14/338009aa-755d11ec-8b0a-bcfab800c430_story.htm)
- Reformed Rabbi saved the life of his and others during the standoff/hostage incident earlier this week.
- Four more subpoenas regarding the 1/6/21 insurrection were issued within the last hour (e.g., Giuliani).
- Good News: A recent lawsuit decision held one of the student loan companies

responsible for reimbursing \$2M. Some student loans will be canceled in full.

- Progress is being made in releasing people being held in Guantanamo.
- Good News: Act Up endorsement for \$800 treatments instead of hundred thousand dollar treatments. Demonstration project with White Noise movement. And the President's body guard has been treated with meds.

## Upcoming/New Actions

### **Jan 24th 1PM "Just Look Up" climate action** at Hochul's office (41st St. 633 3rd Ave)

-Approved last week (this is a reminder). Action will draw attention that as of today, the NYS executive budget is inadequate with regard to the climate crisis. For example, only \$500M has been budgeted toward manufacturing of wind turbines - which is nothing considering we're under significant pressure to turn around the climate crisis. Getting off of fossil fuels isn't addressed in Gov. Hochul's budget.

Signage for the action will include a banner and large signs that explain why we're "looking up". Quantity is tbd. Do not expect this to be a huge action.

Nuclear power and nuclear weapons are a curse on the environment as well in terms of production. As climate-related actions move forward, might want to put a caveat that nuclear is a threat to the environment as well.

### **Tuesday, Jan 25th - coalition Climate Can't Wait action at Hochul's office (endorsement)**

3:30PM (Steps of NY Public Library) - Was endorsed last week (announcement is a reminder) - Promotional video shared during meeting, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ek4XFjGYESO> - Link to sign up for action, <https://actionnetwork.org/events/climate-cant-wait-mobilization-january-2022>

### **Proposal for a monthly INDICT action the 1st Wednesday of the month** at 1PM (location

TBD) first action Feb 2. - Important to keep the messaging regarding insurrection indictments in the public. Know that the Oathkeepers didn't organize the insurrection on their own, so need to go after the key organizers (from the "inside").

To be determined whether the monthly action's location should be at the same place or whether it should move around (e.g., Foley Square where Federal Courthouse is, then at Giuliani's residence, etc.). Also need to consider spacing as far as width of sidewalk and areas for holding signs. - Action will probably be similar in style to the 1/6/22 action on the steps of the NY Public Library. - Shouldn't be too much of a cost (most of the props already exist). - If anyone is interested in helping to organize, please attend tomorrow's RAR Actions meeting.

**Vote to approve action took place during meeting: Passed unanimously**

### **Thursday, Jan 20th 12:30PM Halt Solitary demonstration about conditions at Rikers** - City

Hall/Broadway entrance - plus update on proposed NY State Laws on Sentencing. - Halt Solitary Thursday January 20th at 12:30 at City Hall on the Broadway side entrance.

[Donna's comments during the meeting are as follows.] **DECARCERATION RIKERS:** AS YOU PROBABLY KNOW THE SITUATION AT RIKERS CONTINUES TO BE HORRIFIC. **COME TO A RIKERS RALLY - ORGANIZED BY HALT SOLITARY THIS THURSDAY, JAN 20, 12:30 AT CITY HALL, BROADWAY SIDE. I'M GOING. IS THERE ANYONE WHO WOULD LIKE TO JOIN ME?**

DECARCERATING NY STATE PRISONS: THERE ARE A NUMBERS OF BILLS RELATING TO PRISONS IN THE LEGISLATIVE PIPELINE-SOME TOWARD THE BEGINNING AND OTHERS FURTHER ALONG.

PAROLE JUSTICE BILLS: LAST WEEK I DESCRIBED THE POWERFUL, INSPIRING VIRTUAL ADVOCACY DAY I ATTENDED. THERE IS ANOTHER ONE HAPPENING ON FEBRUARY 8th. CONSIDER GIVING SOME OF YOUR TIME AND ENERGY TO THIS CAMPAIGN WHICH PEOPLE WORKED SO HARD ON IN THE LAST SESSION AND HELP IT TO FINALLY PASS. IF THE SENATORS AND ASSEMBLY PEOPLE WHO ARE SAYING THEY SUPPORT THE BILLS WILL TAKE THE STEP TO CO-SPONSOR THEM THEY WILL HAVE SUPER-MAJORITY SUPPORT- GREATLY INCREASING THEIR CHANCE OF BEING PASSED. NEXT WEEK I'LL GIVE YOU MORE INFORMATION ON HOW TO PARTICIPATE.

SENTENCING REFORM BILLS: CCA IS ORGANIZING SUPPORT FOR THREE NEW BILLS DESIGNED **TO REVERSE** THE EFFECT OF THE ROCKEFELLER DRUG LAWS-PASSED DURING A PARTICULARLY RACIST PERIOD IN THE 70'S. THESE LA WS-STILL IN EFFECT-RADICALLY INCREASED THE LENGTH OF SENTENCES AND INTRODUCED MANDATORY MINIMUM SENTENCES INTO NY STATE. THEY ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ENORMOUS NUMBER OF PEOPLE WHO ARE IN PRISON AND THE OUTRAGEOUS AMOUNTS OF TIME THEY ARE KEPT BEHIND BARS TO THIS DAY!

TOMORROW, CCA IS DOING THEIR FIRST ADVOCACY DAY TO INTRODUCE THE LEGISLATORS TO THE BILLS AND ASK THEM TO CO-SPONSOR THEM. MYSELF AND JOAN BOYLE- ALONG WITH SOME FRIENDS FROM THE GRANNIES - ARE PARTICIPATING. WE'LL REPORT BACK ON HOW IT WENT NEXT WEEK AND TELL YOU WHERE YOU CAN GET MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THIS NEW LEGISLATION. WOULD PEOPLE BE INTERESTED IN SOMEONE FROM CCA MAKE A BRIEF PRESENTATION ABOUT THE BACKGROUND OF THE BILLS AND WHAT CHANGES THEY CALL FOR? HOW MANY WOULD BE?

**NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT ROBERT GOT RISE AND RESIST** ACTIVE ABOUT NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT THROUGH THE WORK HE DID TO GET NYC TO STOP INVESTING IN NUCLEAR WEAPONS. IF ROBERT WAS HERE HE WOULD BE URGING US TO JOIN AN UPCOMING DEMONSTRATION-DEMANDING THAT THE UNITED STATES TO SIGN THE UN TREATY TO ABOLISH NUCLEAR WEAPONS. SINCE ROBERT ISN'T HERE, I'M DOING IT

FOR HIM.

JANUARY 22<sup>nd</sup> IS THE FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF THE ENTRY INTO FORCE OF THE **TREATY ON THE PROHIBITION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS**. DEMAND THAT THE U.S. JOIN THIS TREATY. FRIDAY,

JANUARY 21, NOON -1:30. MEETING AT THE NYC PUBLIC LIBRARY. WALK TO THE US MISSION ACROSS FROM THE U.N. (FIRST AVE AND 43<sup>rd</sup> STREET)

I'M GOING. IS THERE ANY ONE WHO WOULD LIKE TO JOIN ME? [End Donna's comments]

**Opportunity to vent/discuss the Senate's failure to address the Voting Rights Act and Build Back Better legislation.**

- Feeling of being thrown under the bus by Democratic establishment. People on the progressive left get silenced. Understand who and what the Republicans are - but why has the Democratic leadership not stepped up. The all-Manchin and Sinema media attention isn't helpful. - The Republican lies are animated and get attention. Whereas the Democratic leadership isn't messaging to tie the Republican party to white supremacy, etc.
- At a certain point the ranting becomes useless. "We" lost and that's awful. At this point the Democrats are riding a theater for a vote and getting people on record [about eliminating the filibuster]. People on the left should be trying to change the makeup of the Senate. That's the only thing that can be done. It's concerning that there isn't enough visible energy focusing on winning the House back and winning two seats in the Senate. - Not just Manchin and Sinema. There are other people in the Senate who are just as difficult and useless. The whole composition of the Senate has to be pushed away from right-center, to center-center or left-center. The composition amongst the Democrats is bad. Would be better if a few really popular things were removed from the Build Back Better agenda to make it clearer and harder for the Republicans when they proceed to obstruct. - There's so much to work on (e.g., beyond two more seats, etc.). Need to keep paying attention to what's happening within New York. - Public and mass action, civil disobedience is hard but effective. Optimistic seeing workers organizing, unions, and students/young people getting involved in cd's etc. - Disentangling parts of the BBB bill could be effective. - Recent conversations during phone banking with people in West VA: people thought the filibuster was in the voting bill; people couldn't distinguish Manchin's intentions; some people only focused on parts of the voting bill - and bought into the big lie. Many times people we're trying to reach do not believe in the facts. Need a different conversation with a lot of voters - not recycling the conversations we're already having. - School Boards are being packed by the Republicans (e.g., using Critical Race Theory as a dog whistle).
- Democratic leadership, such as Schumer and Pelosi, are not like-minded with activists. That's a problem. - Country is split. Manchin is a loss - was the only Democrat to vote for Brett Kavanaugh. - It's easy to fall into despair. But we do have to take a long view. The Republicans got to today by organizing a 20-30 year plan (e.g., strategies by Think Tanks comprised of all

the unemployed Republicans). They focused on state and local governments. Democrats have to come up with a long plan.

**Action Committee update on Immigration Vigil** - At last week's meeting, approx. One hour spent on vigil and messaging. Conclusion was to research more (e.g., reading articles and following groups). Better understanding of Biden's promises and where we're at now (e.g., not deport people but send people to Mexico and wait to have asylum cases heard for an unspecified amount of time), what's happening at the Southern border, and the green-card process. - If anyone is interested in helping to organize, please attend tomorrow's RAR Actions meeting.

## Report Backs

Jan 13th, 11AM @ NYPL **Steps DSA climate action (endorsement)** - Met at NY Public Library. Focus was to pressure Governor Hochul to get electricity climate friendly, and make it fossil-fuel hostile. After speakers talked, everyone walked to Gov. Hochul's office, Bike marshals blocked off streets and the remaining 50 people sat down in the streets while other speakers addressed the crowd. Held the space for an hour. - It was a good action. - DSA's plan is to democratically control the energy grid since the energy companies will never do the right thing when dealing with climate. (Replicating the democratically-controlled energy grids similar to what other countries do, such as Germany.) Need to take on ConEd and other groups that are not going to proceed without profit. Government can operate at a loss to help people who are poor, whereas corporations profit off of people who can't pay.

(5) Jan 14th **Say Their Names** - every Friday at 4:30PM 96th **Broadway** - In anticipation of the temperature dropping decided to do 2 hour. Read two sides of the first page, as well as the 9 minutes 29 sections of silence. - Implemented a more formal marshalling duo (e.g., Jamie and Karin). It felt good to denote the place as having an official feel to it, or at least a statement of organizing. The marshals went to work immediately with two people: a discussion started with a neighborly woman who was a

Trump/Fox supporter; another inappropriately-friendly, loud unhoused person who was ultimately not too disruptive. - Marshals wearing neon vests helped. - To be determined: purchasing a speaker system to amplify the readings. -

Jan 16th **GAG Supreme Court Action at Recruiting Center** - NY's strict gun control laws are under threat due to a case heard at the Supreme Court during November 2021. Ruling is expected in Spring 2022. - Considering the makeup of the Court (i.e., conservative), it's presumed the law will be overturned. If NY gun laws get overturned, then it's likely mass shootings will escalate in NYC and throughout other high tourist locales (e.g., Washington, DC). - With more guns in the home it is far more likely that a person in the home will be harmed

rather than an assailant. - The case has not appeared at all within the media (with the exception of Gay City News). Awful! - Many Rise and Resist members showed up at Sunday's action. Thank you! - GAG will continue to push the issue until the Supreme Court issues a ruling in the Spring. - It could be possible that people would conceal-carry guns throughout NYC if the NY law is overturned.

**Jan 18th Truth Tuesdays at FOX** - every Tuesday at 12 noon 48th St./6th Ave - Large crowd, very positive energy. And many signs and posters. - Not many people on the street, but frequent thumbs-up feedback. - One person shoulder-checked a couple RAR members during arrival time. Discussion during Actions meeting tomorrow will include having marshals at the Truth Tuesdays. - The "Indict" signs are like catnip for Trumpists. - Having marshals present won't completely guarantee safety or prevent violence, but it will add to a presence of safety. - May be worthwhile to identify other businesses that work in the same building. - Notice employees are annoyed when they walk into the building (which is good). - Action will continue weekly through January. Will begin at 12:00 pm ET, noon ET every Tuesday.

### **Non RAR Actions**

1. Samy Nemir Olivares, who is endorsed by Make the Road Action and NY Communities for Change as well as DSA, is running for NY Assembly against an incumbent Democrat Erik Dilan who says all the right progressive things but who **takes corporate money and who voted AGAINST** taxing billionaires - <https://www.samyfornewyork.com>

2. Poor People's Campaign: Saturday (NY State) from 10:30am-12pm, we're hosting "It's **Movement** Time: An Introduction to the PPC" : <https://actionnetwork.org/events/its-movement-time-an-introduction-to-the-poor-peoples-campaign>. This is a great introductory event to invite new folks to. National and City/likely state will launch stuff I think **Friday, too.**

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