

Rise and Resist General Meeting - Zoom Edition – 03.01.22

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: Karin & Cherie **Notes:** Jackie O. **Participants:** 29 folks

Good news

- We have done actions targeting AIG [American International Group, a major global insurance company] many times and this morning, AIG committed to ending insurance for new coal, tar sands, and arctic energy exploration projects. AIG is now a US leader in restricting fossil fuel insurance. Our activism worked!

Upcoming/New Actions

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 2 @ 1pm – **next INDICT demo** -- Foley Square

Meet In front on court steps. Will have various Indict banners – will walk the Indict Trump directly up to office of Allen Bragg.

FRIDAY, MARCH 4 @ 11 am – **Riders Alliance accessibility demo** – Queens, 63rd Drive /Rego Park Station (M,R)

MONDAY, MARCH 7 @ 5 pm – **Protest Blake Mason** – Empire Steakhouse, 151 East 50th St
Blake Masters is a candidate for US Senate (Arizona). He currently works for Peter Thiel finance, who donated \$10 million to his campaign. On top of anti-trans politics, anti-critical race theory, he is a proponent of Trump's Big Lie, and into cryptocurrency. A significantly far-to-the-right white supremacist, Mason is worth calling attention to. Goal is to be present with our signs, not to shame people but to trigger their attention, and get images of protest out to AZ press.

TUESDAY, MARCH 8 – **CLIMATE LOBBYING DAY** – Albany

Big day for climate activists statewide to demand \$15 billion in NYS budget for climate. See [info and sign up here](#). Civil disobedience opportunities. Contact Livvie if you want to know more.

Also, [350 Brooklyn](#) will be doing performances/marches on Wed., 3/2 @ 2 pm and Friday 3/4 @ 1 pm. Meet at the wide plaza on 42 St. near Park Ave, to march from there to Chase Bank branches.

THURSDAY, MARCH 10 @5pm – next **IMMIGRATION VIGIL** – in the Oculus
Will send more outreach about this. If you are not on the list of email announcements for Immigration Actions, contact Jamie.

FRIDAY, MARCH 11 @ 12 noon – **END VACCINE APARTHEID** action – Stock Exchange / Wall Street

Next in an ongoing series of ‘End Vaccine Apartheid NYC’ actions which are part of a national and global campaign. The goal is to get vaccine production and testing happening around the world, so we can end the pandemic instead of just providing big profits to Big Pharma. Global People’s Vaccine Alliance is doing a global day of action on this 2nd anniversary of the day WHO announced the pandemic in 2020. Theme is [“End COVID monopolies.”](#) All actions worldwide will have a die-in component. Location at Wall Street will call out pandemic profiteering.

Six million deaths worldwide from COVID, and one million in the US, will be reached sometime later in March. We are marking this anniversary by noting that the pandemic is not over. If the US seems to be edging toward an ‘endemic’ status, in many countries in the Global South it is still very much a pandemic. Vaccines and treatments are protected by intellectual property rights and not serving global populations at risk.

There may be an affinity group action piece that’s more edgy. We will need marshals and will consult with Actions about that. Any ideas of possible co-sponsors please contact Ann Rubin aerubin13@gmail.com.

Discussion RE: Messaging for Anti-War Actions

Several anti-war demonstrations are happening, including this Saturday @ 3 pm in Times Sq at 46th St (Duffy Sq.). This demo is organized by smaller anti-war groups including Veterans for Peace (and some others that are more sectarian leaning). For this and other anti-war events, what message do we want to bring?

Summary of Sunday night discussion about RAR’s anti-war stance and messaging:

- Everyone is against Putin’s aggression, and a lot of empathy for people who are caught up. It needs to end quickly. Anger at trump for his admiration of Putin. Concern about demonizing Russia and Russians, instead of the Russian government. Avoid getting dragged into Republican backpedaling that this is about Biden—it is about Putin. Concern about Russian soldiers, and all families and civilians who are affected. Avoid getting dragged into arguments about NATO, etc. Focus on nuclear weapons and the threat they pose to us all.
- People are feeling a range of temptations to root for Ukraine militarily because there is a war. Brings up conflict between innate pacifism and desire to defend oneself when attacked. To stay tight as a group, we want to be aware of that conflict.
- We agreed that we are in a very early stage of whatever this is going to be. We will be feeling our way along and will need ongoing conversations. It’s kind of like a new world, from last week to this week. None of us yet has a full or confident take, and we will need to listen, be respectful, accept our differences, and offer each other grace in the process.

Discussion:

- Tomorrow we do action on Indict Trump, and the one thing that would really sanction Putin is to arrest Donald Trump and his collaborators. It's a fascist movement in league with Putin. We need to generate political will.
- Our differences started to appear during the Sunday conversation, but our love for each other as a group was also clear. It was a great conversation and felt like a safe space. It is a work in process, we will continue.
- It's kind of a strange situation, being a leftist, that Biden so far is doing the right thing. This is a very dangerous situation. While the US for now is not getting directly involved, Zelensky today is asking for participation in a no-fly zone. Concern right now: Ukrainian people and peoples suffering under the onslaught. But not to forget US militarism, and we will have the warmongers. Economic problems will be exacerbated by this war here and around the world. And we need to be ready and not submit to jingoism.
- Feelings about nationalism and flags and how RAR presents the message? How do we find a way to build in the role of white supremacy and white nationalism that unites all sorts of people in this. Which makes the situation confusing but it needs to be addressed.
- Concerns me that Rachel Maddow had H. Clinton on last night, and was trying to bait her into supporting a no-fly zone. We need to be ready to protest that, for me that's a red line in the sand. We need to be prepared for more and more Russian bombing of cities. More calls to help Ukraine militarily. We need to be prepared to discuss and do actions.
- Second, that point above. A group held a protest today at the UN calling for a no-fly zone – Ukrainian diaspora non-profit group. The demand is certainly out there. We need to watch and resist the idea that the US or NATO would begin shooting down Russian planes.
- How can we push the idea that instead of a no-fly zone, we should arrest Trump. How to take msg from our rally tomorrow (Indict Trump), to Saturday's demo? Arrest the inner coup plotters.
- I agree with that. But the concern about calling for a no-fly zone is going to grow. I understand if you are a Ukrainian in NY that you would want that. I'm incredibly impressed that Putin rattled the nuclear saber and Biden didn't take the bait. I pray that he lets Putin self-destruct. We talked about drawing the straight line between white fundamentalist Christian nationalists, the Proud Boys and Trump ... and Putin. There's a line there. Wanna fight Putin in America? Then fight Putinists, fight Trumpers.
- Echoing what others are saying. We don't love Biden but he's been doing a remarkable job of leading from behind. He was responsible for getting the Swiss to move out of complicity/neutrality. He's managed to avoid nuclear assault at least so far. We need to watch the Russian oligarchs who have basically funded London and other places, who are starting to [give money to the Democratic Party](#).
- One of the things that came through on Sunday's meeting is we wanted to have consensus. We didn't want to have one voice. We've been calling out for Trump to be indicted, we can now start to call out that oligarchs need to move Putin out of his seat. Putin King needs to be out of office.
- We came together 5+ years ago in response to Trump's election. We all see him as a fascist. Putin and others helped put him in office. There is a connection to all of this. Maybe one of the unique things we can do as RAR is to start to make those connections for people. To say: if we need to fight back against Putin then arrest the fascists that are here, that Putin and others put into power. We can stand in solidarity with the resistance movements that are underway in Ukraine, [Belarus](#) (that surfaced 18 months ago),

Russia. We are all part of a resistance movement internationally. It's fraught with all kinds of peril – a major global war. It could go there. What is our role as a brand of resistance capital R given the new circumstances we are in?

- Along with the connections between Putin and white supremacy and trump – there is also the connection between Putin and climate change. “Fossil Fuels Prop Up Putin” -- Russia is a petro-state, that IS their economy. If we can move to renewables, where no one is buying Russian oil and gas, they lose all of that power.

FINAL DISCUSSION: is there a decision about messages we bring to Saturday's demo? We will go as individuals on Saturday, so people can individually bring these messages ... Maybe at Actions we can try to make some signs based on our discussion – no promise. No decisions made but discussion will continue?

Report Backs

FEBRUARY 23 – Zeldin zap at One Police Plaza

Four of us attended a press conference announcing Zeldin's race for NY governor. We had info/signs about his attempt to overturn election results. While we had to dance with other people with pro-Zeldin signs, we did get very close to him with our signs. And photos were taken. One reporter asked Zeldin challenging questions about his role re: election results, so there was also more pressure on him.

FEBRUARY 24 – Immigration vigil in Grand Central

First time back in Grand Central for Immigration action, since the pandemic. Good number of people there—a lot of people passing. It was a good location. Excellent flier (so good that the printer told Stu that it was great!)—one of the best immigration leaflets that we have had. People were warmly receptive, asking for leaflets, pausing to stop and say thank you. The war in Ukraine had started, people were thinking about refugees and migration – they were very open.

Maybe we should include Ukrainian refugees as a tie-in? Brief discussion about how we need more discussion about this – some concerns about the double standard of offering protections to white European immigrants while only 11,000 refugees were accepted last year in the US.

FEBRUARY 24 – Protest Mayor Adam's anti-LGBTQ appointments

Equality NY organized with others a rally against 3 anti-LGBTQ individuals appointed by Adams: Rev. Erick Salgado; Pastor Gilford Monroe; and Fernando Cabrera. Organizers' demands were: 1) Rescind the appointments; 2) Resurrect the Unity Project with more clear goals for LGBTQ communities; and 3) Keep commitment to meet with local LGBTQ leaders. There were 20 speakers at the rally, from council members to grassroots organizers to representatives of different LGBTQ communities. Good press. Mayor responded the next day to say basically 'I can do what I want.' But a meeting with some of his people and LGBTQ leaders may be taking place this week.

And then after the rally, we brought a banner to District Attorney Bragg's office, with Indict signs. We're going to do it again tomorrow.

Next is a street action organized by Equality NY, Sunday, March 20, to keep on the pressure re: LGBTQ politics.

FEBRUARY 24 – STOP PUTIN letters @ Russian Consulate

Not an official RAR action. On the sidewalk S-T-O-P P-U-T-I-N letters spelled out in front of the Consulate. It was very moving, several Ukrainians coming in and weeping.

FEBRUARY 25 – SAY THEIR NAMES vigil @ 96th and Broadway

It was good; no friction this week. Ann circulated a wonderful poem by [Claudia Rankin called "Weather"](#) which brought together our politics. For the first time, we used the short bios of people recently killed in police custody along with the list of names and it worked very well, really brought it home.

FEBRUARY 28 – Hochul action "Just Look Up"

Part of an ongoing series of actions at Hochul's office, asking the governor to Look Up! at the climate crisis all around us. Demanding that Hochul, who is talking a lot, actually act: i.e. put money behind addressing the climate crisis. Also doing daily tweets.

MARCH 1 – Truth Tuesday at FOX news

We focused on a tight message with yellow and blue signs "Putin Speaks // Fox Repeats." It was terrific, we got lots of thumbs up. Julie brought sunflowers (flower of Ukraine).

Discussion: CCA (**Center for Community Alternatives**) has asked groups to sign on to memos of support for each of three bills introduced to address the crisis of mass incarceration: 'Eliminate Mandatory Minimums Act' and the 'Second Look Act' and the 'Earned Time Act.' Donna has ongoing permission to sign these memos for us.

Non Rise and Resist Actions

Our friends at Extinction Rebellion are doing a die-in tomorrow, and Maryellen is looking for folks to help hand out flyers.

End of Meeting!

RISE AND RESIST