

Rise and Resist General Meeting - Zoom Edition - 4.28.2020

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](#)
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Notes - Alexandra Facilitators - Kellen, Jamie, and Sandy ASL Signer - Elizabeth

We started at 7:05 so members could bang pots, cheer the front-line workers.

We will list upcoming actions at the top of the minutes for easier access. You can find further discussion in the body of the minutes.

UPCOMING EVENTS

1. Different sites will be selected for Banner drops in Actions.
2. **Samaritan's Purse letters to City Hall:**
 - o We should contact our City Counselors, Mayor and Human Rights Commission.
 - o Heather is drafting a letter for any members to sign.
3. Press Conference Sunday May 3 at 1 pm in front of Beth Israel on SE corner of 16th and 1st Ave. to protest SP coming in to staff that unit.
 - a. 4 to 5 members needed from RaR
4. Elke's Google list of all upcoming actions:
https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1_T92_aLSIVqA-7i9xEHmRGUN8XiNMkdOaZAwuAVZfU/edit#gid=0
5. **Budget Justice town halls to be held on Zoom from 4/29 through 5/5 at 7 pm** True Blue, Fiscal Policy Institute also involved).
<https://www.nybudgetjustice.com/townhalls>
 - Delivers Healthcare For All and Protections For Frontline Workers
Weds April 29th, 7pm / [register](#)
 - Includes Immigrant Families and Repairs Gaps In Worker Protections
Thursday, April 30th, 7pm / [register](#)
 - Provides Ongoing And Universal Income Assistance Paired With True Financial Relief
Friday, May 1st, 3pm / [register](#)
 - Addresses the Public Health Crises Of Incarceration and Homelessness
Monday, May 4th, 7pm / [register](#)

- Protects Democracy and Ensures Corporate Accountability and State Oversight
Monday, May 5th, 7pm / [register](#)
6. **The People's Forum Songs in the key of resistance** this Saturday 5/2 at 4 pm on Zoom.
<https://www.facebook.com/events/617567415637636/>
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REPORT BACKS

TRUMP LIES PEOPLE DIE Banner photograph action to Greenwood Cemetery and Downstate Hospital.

Action committee to review potential actions at additional sites.

Rick: Banner action at Greenwood Cemetery, outside the gates; some photos taken in the cemetery of Virginia's friend, member of the Sirens, who died of Covid

Wrolf: Action at Downstate Hospital

Trump Flies While People Die flyover photo on social media

Alexandra: The banner has just been shown in front of Elmhurst Hospital.

Jamie: We will continue to scout out different sites.

- the banner has now been shown in 15 locations.
- If interested in participating, email Jamie: BAUwau2u@gmail.com

COSECHA/Close The Camps action at Cuomo's office

Elke: We started at Cuomo's office on a rainy day. Critical Mass bikers organized but did not provide protection for older bikers. 18 to 20 bikers; beautiful chants, bikes decorated. 15 cars were decorated and honking. Andy R did a lot of photography. Cops behind the bikers, safe. People were very curious; whole event seemed orderly. RaR peeled off after an hour.

#Freethemall

Cosecha took the action to 42nd.

Joan: reported that it was a success.

Jamie: In front of Cuomo's office it was impossible to keep social distance with passers-by; we need to think about that for the future when we move to direct actions on the street.

Samaritan's Purse actions and letters - endorse upcoming Reclaim Pride press conference. Contact **Jackie** or **Jamie** if you want to participate in this press conference.

Heather: **Letter and endorsements**

- Richie Torres from the Bronx has agreed to sponsor this letter stating that groups must abide by NY human rights legislation and employment laws.
- Torres asked that we talk to our City Counselors, Mayor and Human Rights Commission. Carlina Rivera, LES said she wants to be part of this.
- This resolution needs to pass with a simple majority. We are working with RaR and with Reclaim Pride.
- We are asking City Council members to write two letters themselves.

Donna: letter members can sign?

Heather: We are drafting a letter, and the group is developing call messages

Timothy: Statement from Mt. Sinai that they are bringing in SP personnel into MT. Sinai; we have to take a strong stand.

Jackie R: representing Reclaim Pride: **Press conference** got a lot of coverage including the NYT; a big success.

- There will be a press conference this Sunday May 3 at 1 pm in front of Beth Israel on SE corner of 16th and 1st Ave. to protest SP coming in to staff that unit.
- We ask for 4 to 5 members of RaR to participate

Mark H: Interested group opposed to downsizing of hospitals in LES.

- o Could there be a remote actions step involving the media?

RaR voted to endorse this upcoming press conference in front of Beth Israel.

Googledoc on actions that you can do

Elke keeps updating this document. Please review and add as needed to the website:

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1_T92_aLSIVqA-7i9xEHmRGUN8XiNMkdOaZAwuwAVZfU/edit#gid=0

Review of Earth Day 72 hour coverage

Stu: discussed initial plans for national civil disobedience: Extinction Rebellion etc. protesting Black Rock, Chase Bank;

- Then the pandemic came.
- 72 hour event planned on screen with many people speaking on climate:
 - o It did not really work; Much too ambitious: should have been a targeted message, much shorter event. It did not get attention in the face of the virus.

Mary: Many interesting talks, lots of very good lower thirds:

- High school kids in Boise and changes they had made;
- this was all meant for youth activists.
- Many messages focussed on systems:
 - o what pandemic does to indigenous people,
- Katy Porter wanted to be in it.

Donna spoke in support of action;

- wonderful material by young activists:
- is it possible to make sections available on Youtube.
- Mary: There is a lot of material available. But in personal documents.

Jenny: Counts this as a success given all the horror of last week;

- Young people working on this was so important, and showed their ongoing persistence to resist.

Cherie: People did do their best; but it is worth critiquing:

- Stop the money pipeline day; the whole point was to get traction on social media. At no point did it trend on twitter, discouraging.
- Online activism is awful

Mary: People were involved, though it didn't trend. All done at incredibly short notice.

Livvie: very few retweets ; we are not paying attention to the climate crisis in the face of Covid.

- Climate is not on people's to do list

Past and Proposed actions around the Post Office and voting by mail.

Elke and Cherie: group meets Mondays that focuses on saving USPS

- Many Components of campaign
- Action today (4/28/20): PO at 4th Ave and 11th st. Messages in chalk: **"USPS ESSENTIAL FOREVER"** **"POSTAL WORKERS ARE HEROES"**
- Cherie: Patchen Place; the postal workers were thrilled and grateful; took photos and sent them to their managers.

- It was very hard to keep social distancing. People wanted to crowd together in pictures.
- Elke: build that directive into future actions;
- Jennifer B spoke in support of the action; and asked whether could be in other sites than post offices.
- Elke: yes but PO's are excellent sites. Complex actions planned.
- RaR members responded enthusiastically and suggested various other locations,
 - Including Varick Street which is opposite the Bd of Elections
 - this should be called "Thank you..." on twitter.
 - Send photos around twitter and Instagram, not just FB
 - These are non stress actions, like postcarding which are likely to be popular with general public. We should send pix of these actions to Solidarity Sundays, Postcards for America and Americans of Conscience.

Proposed: SAVE THE POST OFFICE; PROTECT THE VOTE banner.

- Sandy: How about Protect Our vote. Timothy: Protect Mail Vote; Absentee Ballot
- Stu and various members: Why tie it to the vote? Others felt this was important connection to be made.

RaR voted to endorse payment of \$200 for the banner, and the message on the banner will go to Actions for tweaking.

State Budget issues - shortfalls

Mark H. The budget saga is far from over.

Gov can propose budget adjustments; legislature can propose alternatives. Deadline for next adjustment is coming soon: Another \$8 billion proposed to be cut in the budget across the board. Cuts will center mainly on aid to localities; largely aid to schools

3 alternatives:

1. The Cares Act has a provision that created a mechanism for states to borrow from the Federal Reserve bank at zero interest. 4 year loan that could be rolled over for longer. Movement:
 - a. Fed could forego payment
 - b. Cuomo interested: NY could borrow 20 billion
2. Budget Justice: raise taxes from the ultra-wealthy:
 - a. some items got traction; this would raise 35 billion
3. Turn to Congress for states and localities:
 - Pelosi. Congress is undertaking a huge Covid relief bill. Lots of money to states and localities.
 - Cuomo is VP of the committee working on this: raise ½ Billion for localities.
 - McConnell "lukewarm;" He is generating publicity that blue states are spendthrifts,

Action Opportunities:

Livvie and Mark asked for endorsement of **5 Budget Justice town halls to be held on Zoom from 4/29 through 5/5 at 7 pm** True Blue, Fiscal Policy Institute also involved).

<https://www.nybudgetjustice.com/townhalls>

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o **Good attendance is important.**

RaR approved endorsement of these Town Halls

Discussion of process for RAR to handle letters, as so much action is now in the form of letters.

Livvie: One step is to get blanket signatures, but we also want the larger RaR group to be informed, and we want the working groups to be accountable

Jamie: Don't post letter; but provide background to the letter, brief synopsis, and have straight up and down on the letter if not controversial.

Jackie G: We should trust the working groups.

Mary: Could we drop links to the letters at the beginning of the zoom meeting?

ERT can respond quickly

Wrolf: Letters requiring immediate turnaround should be sent to ert@riseandresist.org cc: wrolf@wrolf.net

RaR approved that working committees get carte blanche for letters; members will make short summaries of the letters, if deadlines are not so short that they have to go to ERT.

Jamie: Facilitations/Actions will write a short summary of steps regarding endorsement of letters.

Elevator Actions Letter

- Jennifer V: EAG along with the Transit Center is advocating zoning changes to provide equal access to our subway. This is right in line with EAG mission. This letter did not require a vote.

Letter on Mental Health Needs sponsored by Just Leadership, USA

Donna: Letter approved by ERT: Prisoners with mental health concerns are being discriminated against because of mh issues

1. Enact HALT: the solitary confinement bill
2. Release as many people with MH issues as possible
3. Community and housing investment.

RaR approved endorsement of this letter.

Letter in support of non-binary, gender fluid, gender non-conforming Democratic County committee members sponsored by various groups including True Blue

Livvie: Initially an initiative was created to enable women to be more involved in Democratic politics

- Old definition, male and female; several people were kicked off rosters because they refused to use these definitions.
- Most committee members are female at this point, and there should be broader definitions.
- <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1aj1a0K9BDDfMTDde4XZAxOXfcXAccRJuahK8cDnJ-l8/edit>

RaR approved endorsement of this letter.

Letter: Make the Road initiative: Undocumented people cut out of CARES One.

Ann R: This letter makes proposals for inclusion

- o <https://actionnetwork.org/petitions/governor-cuomonew-yorks-excluded-workers-need-relief>
- o Here the org sign on form:
https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSffGCquCIk-IYAJ-GLIJ4xMb4RjqV-BkmWcZxblRpglOCnhFA/viewform?usp=send_form

Stu: why not approach Feds, or is this state level?

Ann R: There will be actions at federal AND state levels.

Jackie Orr: Discussed recent call with AOC.

- People looking at Governor Newsome's state based model to provide funding at state and municipalities;
- At the federal level it is a very hard ask.
- AOC says that Schumer is key in terms of getting money for undocumented immigrants at the state level.

Mark H: There is friendly competition between CA and NY: Newsome did it; what are you going to do Cuomo? We should use this.

RaR approved endorsement of this letter.

Finance: No finance report

Susan: Thanks to Joan B for picking up checks, traveling on subway, and spending 60-90 minutes to deposit them; Susan says Finance is coming up with new mail in system for RaR checks.

- RaR is continuing to receive checks.

Rise and Resist masks

Dann: Research: Best price found: \$10 per mask; 100 minimum. More commonly: \$15 says there is no shortage of masks at this point.

Discussion:

- Jennifer V: How about Tee shirts?
- Ray: Can we donate masks? They will be fashion statements
- Shirts will be ready in a couple of days.
- Matter of masks still not decided upon.

Non Rise and Resist announcements

Patricia is donating a range of **unused meds** to whomever wants them.

- If interested, contact Patricia

Katrina: **TPF Songs in the key of resistance** this Saturday 5/2 at 4 pm on Zoom.

- o <https://www.facebook.com/events/617567415637636>

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