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

Notes - Alexandra **Facilitators -** Cherie, Paul, and Sandy **ASL Signer -** Elizabeth

Welcome to RAR Zoom Meeting
How To Zoom overview - for desktop, iPad, phone
36 participants

REPORT BACKS

Banner photograph action at Lincoln Center and the Brooklyn Bridge. Action committee to review the need for further actions.
Jamie and Donna: Two banner actions one Brooklyn Bridge action, action came together with a lot of questions and thinking about the message and its impact; the photo was sent widely. Betsy Andrews did the photo. 4 people held the banner.

Action committee will discuss next. One idea is to do it in front of the morgue trucks. To be done by volunteers who feel comfortable doing this. Logistics is the challenge: how to get the banner from Brooklyn. Might it make sense to have two banners? One in Manhattan. And one in Brooklyn? No, we can bike it back and forth. Members felt it was a great action. Will be discussed further in Actions

Samaritan's Purse "hospital" in Central Park - some thoughts on actions that we can take.
   ● Franklin Graham is part of the Billy Graham family. Volunteers are required to sign that Christ is lord and savior. Marriage between "genetic" man and "genetic" woman. Meeting on Sunday 4/12? Ask SP to work within the values of NYC, which is not an evangelical city.
   ● Ideas: Ask City Council that an org that wants to work in NYC must abide by Human Rights Law and Non-Discriminatory Employment Law. If the City Council passes this, then SP will say yes or no. Yes will make it easier to monitor, and NO means it doesn't stay in NY. We can monitor and make this public.
   ● Meeting Weds. Ray: we thought we should demand, not ask. Maybe there is a non-discrimination issue. Rev Billy planted a rainbow flag. Arrested, spent 20 hours in

custody; videos show he was treated rather roughly. There is no reason that this should be done.

- Ray has been messaging, tweeting the mayor and Cory Johnson demanding an explanation as to why a person in NYC should be arrested for objecting to this homophobic/xenophobic organization. Email Ray or anyone in Actions to incorporate your ideas in this and upcoming actions.
- Timothy: Rev. Billy crossed the fence inside the field. He was charged with trespassing and resisting arrest. Tim did volunteer, but just did not sign the section about being heterosexual and married. They have responded to him positively
- Rick: A second fundamentalist hospital is being set up in St John the Divine. It is not on City land.
- Djeremy and Judy K. Staff at St John the Divine will be working with Mt. Sinai.
- Susan Lee: Very conflicted. We need to get this information out. We do not want to be seen as depriving people of beds.
- Rick: If I had my way the city would impound the hospital. Every volunteer has had to sign. Everyone gets paid. Not Mt. Sinai personnel.
- Ray: the 68 beds is taking the overflow to Mt. Sinai. The Javits Center went from 1000 to 2000 beds. There is not a lack of beds. This is a publicity stunt directed towards Samaritan Purse's base, which is also trump's base.
- Stu: hate group…SP hates gay people.
- Alexandra: In Cuomo's addresses, there is no mention of the beds at the park, and at the Cathedral.
- Paul: Discrimination is wrong, this is a hate group
- Diane L: Islamophobic and anti-Muslim. After an earthquake in El Salvador they received money which they used to proselytize. Let's add Jumaane Williams and the public advocate to the list of who we contact.

Rise and Resist voted in favor of pursuing the matter further, whether to work with the City Council or to confront SP directly.

Discussion of NY State budget and what progressive activists are doing.
- Livvie: Cuomo wanted to cut anything he could; he refused to tax ultra-millionaires, and highly wealthy corporations. Unions signed on and polls showed that 9 of 10 people were in favor of the ultra-millionaires' tax. Cuomo did not go near it.
- Cuomo protected his donors.
- Even with Covid, Cuomo cut education $1.2b. He accepted $1.2b from Feds, but this is just a one-time thing. Pushed through policy ideas, crushed the Working Families Party, some pre-trial reforms, and bail reforms. Actually, more people are being incarcerated after this budget passed even though COVID is putting people in danger.
- Procedural things were wrong. Cuomo made sure they couldn't do one house budgets. Used Covid as an excuse. Maintained the right to go into the budget to make more cuts without a vote of the legislature. He was abetted by the legislature in this.
- Lynn: Exercised his power as the democratic trump, while Bernie and Joe were silenced
- Mark H; Cuomo forced 2.5 b in Medicaid cuts through the sham commission process, the MRT. Forced a deal on the legislature. In order to accept the Federal money, they would have to accept his cuts. On the last day, he went to legislative leaders and told them: if you don't give me all of what I want I will shut down the legislature, and the public will believe me and not you. My popularity is at 87%.
  - o The legislative leaders did not inform the members of the legislature. The senate did votes virtually. The assembly voted in chamber but from their offices. But, if

they voted no, they had to go to the Chamber where they would be seen by all. All of this is very unusual, there was no verbal debate. Only written debate was accepted.

- o 5 senators voted no (mostly the people who replaced members of the IDC),
- o **Zelnor, Ramos, Rivera, Biaggi, and ….**
- o Note: Senator Jackson, who replaced Alcantara from the IDC voted yes.
- o 15 to 20 assembly members voted no.

What to do next: Budget Justice, True Blue, and other groups are focusing on what to do about his seizing unilateral power to adjust the budget. The feds are taking up a 4th Covid response bill. How do we engage Schumer and Gillibrand to buy back some of these cuts?
Stu: Reaction to Cuomo is making people so amenable to give up their rights like with Samaritans Purse. On FB people are saying to progressives basically "shut up".
Mary: after 9/11 people reacted similarly. Think about how activists worked then. We would not shut up
Elke: Naomi Klein, Angela Davis webinar link is very important and instructive about what is happening. Here is the link: https://youtu.be/xUP0swVDmtg
Or: www.facebook.com/TheRisingMajority/videos/1001191156942525/?q=naomi%20klein

Reclaim Our Vote - postcard action to register voters who were purged in North Carolina.
Sandy: The goal of this group is to influence a good outcome for the election. Reclaim Our Vote has made a huge effort to get black voters back on the voting roles, as many have been kicked off. Phone banking, texting the goal is to increase the number of people of color by 20% or more. This campaign is focusing on NC, TX, GA, AL, MS, AZ and has had a history of great success. Side by side county experiments demonstrate that there was a 20% increase in counties where postcarding was done.
Sandy played a 6 minute video from Reclaim Our Vote.

- ● Discussion: Mary: There have been complaints made to Tony the Democrat. Sandy: The number of complaints has been very limited. These messages have all been approved by state or county boards of elections. Postcards read "you may not be on the voting roles" rather than "you have been removed from the voting roles."
- ● Concerns expressed about whether the county is involved in voter suppression. Sandy: not likely. That comes from the state.
- ● Rick: What are the registration deadlines? R would be more comfortable doing this work in a month.

Sandy: If you are interested, request from me the number of postcards you are willing to fill out: slradoff@gmail.com

- ● Sandy will send cards, a list of people to be contacted, script and stamps and labels for addresses.
- ● You provide colored pens.
- ● Sandy's ask: send her a copy of the first card you have filled out so she can see that they are done correctly.
- ● You need to mail the cards.
- ● Shred or destroy the lists once you are done.
- ● It is very important that you fill out the cards that you sign up for.
- ● Let Sandy know when you have mailed out your cards.

Rise and Resist voted to approve $300 for materials for this Reclaim Our Vote postcarding project.

Discussion of what COVID-19 issues people would like to organize around.

- Jamie: Are there actions that other groups are doing around **immigrants in detention, homeless, incarcerated people**?
    - o Donna: this is being investigated.
- Rev Billy: **Conditions in jail cells** where people are detained are horrible, filthy, masks are taken away as suicide risk.
- Elke we can put a list of petitions out in **a live document.** She offered to develop that list.
- Rev Billy got a lot of coverage with direct action.
- Ray: how to do activism around women having **access to safe, legal abortions**. There are resistance groups who get together each night. These are called **Resistance Parties.** Ray posts a photo of the Trump Lies, People Die. This is being shared and reshared.
- There was worry that any action near the refrigerated trucks would be seen as in poor taste.
- Ray: Don't shy away from death. ACT UP pushed people to talk about death.
- Jennifer, Alexandra, Tim: **Homeless resources/actions:**
    - o Backpacks for the Street:
        - ▪ Backpacksforthestreet.org
        - ▪ https://www.facebook.com/search/top/?q=backpacks&epa=SEARCH_BOX
    - o Support RaR member Kate Barnhart's work.
    - o Also, https://actionnetwork.org/petitions/homelesscantstayhome/

- To follow Ray and his strategies for expanding his twitter message, his tag is #mycathatestrump.

Finance
Eve: put up $15,600 increase of $100 from 4 weeks ago

Non Rise and Resist announcements
Tim: ACTUP-covid19: https://www.facebook.com/groups/2635737100084778/everyone join ACTUP

Time to wrap up and schmooze.

RISE AND RESIST