

Rise and Resist General Meeting - Zoom Edition - 4.6.2021

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: Paul and Jennifer **Notes:** Sandy

GOOD NEWS!

Cuomo signs Halt Solitary Bill

Marijuana legalized in NYS

NYS will be funding NY schools billions of dollars owed

National budget parliamentarian approved two more budget reconciliation bills can be put in front of the Senate this year meaning Biden's infrastructure bill is set up to potentially pass

Breaking news—fund for excluded worker's coalition passed \$2.5 B

Gov Hutchison (R) Arkansas vetoed an anti-transgender health care bill

REPORT BACKS

Tax the Rich/Invest in Our New York—Several Actions

Excluded Workers Campaign—Judson Church, Sunday, April 4

The big action was on Easter Sunday outside Cuomo's office on Third Avenue in Manhattan. 150+ people attended all dressed in white to support the hunger strike. An interfaith service was held with different clergy. Tables were set up with empty plates and cups with flowers to represent Easter Dinner.

Albany Action—Monday, April 4

Hunger strikers went to Albany from all over NYS. Walked from the big mall area to the Governor's mansion.

Smaller Albany CD Action—Thursday, April 1

Katrina--A small group went to Albany for a CD. They blocked off an off ramp of the highway to the Capital. 10 people were arrested including Katrina. It was well-organized. Everyone was

released but charges seemed stringent to Livvie. They were charged with the highest charges they could but cops said don't worry about it since you can negotiate down. Cop had a white privileged figurine on his desk. Katrina and others are writing a formal complaint about that. Hearing will be next week. In two weeks should know what's happening. Those involved felt it was worth it. There was an urgency about this action because the budget deadline was approaching.

Fasting—Ongoing

Jackie Orr-15 RaR members participated in a virtual hunger strike relay, each lasting from 1 to 3 days. They met on zoom each morning at 11 am to talk about their experiences. It was a social media focused hunger strike. Those participating heard the word "body" a lot and how profound and powerful it felt to experience the politics along with the sacrifice. This action also demonstrated the importance of following the lead and showing up for others. It was Indivisible groups that started the fast.

Wake Up Chuck: Friday, April 2, 8 am, 9 Prospect Park West (Chuck Schumer's residence)

Jamie-Windy and really, really cold day. Made a lot of noise. We are sure it was heard and seen. Not a lot of foot traffic but several bikers in the bike lane. Should do it again when the weather is better. Without the noise, we would be invisible.

Xr Action: Friday, April 2 at 3:30 pm, New York Public Library

Maryellen was arrested. Xr action was to protest the building and funding of Embridge Line 3 pipeline. RaR was following Xr in support of the indigenous people and others trying to shut this pipeline down and bring awareness to it. Met at NYPL and then did a bank crawl. Many groups participated as part of a coalition. Banner dropped at BofA. Went up to the Chase branch at 46th and Madison. Overall, it was a very successful action.

But, Kevin Clarke went to climb the Chase Building. It was a precarious climb and he fell about 15 feet and sustained a broken pelvis and broken arm

Stu-The street was full of cops. Livvie called 911. It was only a Chase security guard who came over. The cops were being really nasty. Jon-feeling from the cops was that he deserved it. Virginia mentioned that a group with New Freedom in the name filmed the incident.

Kevin's sister and girlfriend mentioned sending him postcards to keep his spirits up. As of Friday, April 9, a Go Fund Me to help Kevin out while he recovers has raised over \$20,000.

<https://www.gofundme.com/f/climate-activist-kevin-clarke-needs-your-help>

Say Their Names: Friday, April 9 at 5 pm, Corner of 96th and Broadway

Jennie--Several people showed up. Take Your Knee off his neck banner was out. A young black man joined us early on and stood reading the names with tears rolling down his face. Shortly after, all of a sudden, a young black man ran across where we were standing, grabbed the take your knee banner and moved to grab the stop killing black people banner. In his movement to keep running, he knocked Donna

over. Donna was on the ground and there was a moment of what does one do about the police? The commitment was to not call the police. But, some were saying get him out of here, need to call the police. The man who knocked Donna down was mortified that he had injured someone and he wanted to call the police. We said, no, you can't call the police. The first young black man was yelling at the one who knocked Donna that he had to go because the police will kill him. The one who knocked her down said Call the police. I want to see that she's okay.

Jamie: Two narratives—lot of uproar on the UWS about having an influx of mentally ill homeless people in the street and SROs. One white woman in the neighborhood did call the cops. The police who came weren't interested in Donna. They were interested in who did it. We were concerned about whether we needed an ambulance. We tried to get them to leave. In NY there is no place to call for someone in distress to get help. All you can do is call the police. And, this guy did not need the police. Our choices were heart-breaking. Went to the emergency room at Northwell. Donna had 6 staples to close the wound. The sympathetic staff at Northwell thanked Jamie and Donna for not having this guy arrested.

Banner Action: Saturday, April 10 at 1 pm in Madison Square

Jennie—3 banners—stop killing black people, white supremacy is terrorism, take your knee off his neck. We stood on the plaza on the east side of the flatiron building. It was a good action to follow the events of Friday. Discussion of whether this was a good spot. Turns out many thought this was a good spot. Lots of people. Diversity of reactions. Many positive reactions and several negative reactions. Good location to find a cross section of people who don't necessarily all support us.

UPCOMING ACTIONS & NEW ACTIONS

CCIA—Wednesday, April 7 at 5 pm; Union Square Park (southeast corner)

Cherie--Action to support the CCIA (Climate and Community Investment act) Working with PCM. Rude Mechanical Orchestra will be there (just percussion). Songs to be sung. We have a banner—Pass the CCIA Make Polluters Pay. Climate Jobs and Justice signs, flyers. Meet at USP and march down to WSP. Important piece of legislation. Just put in front of the Senate two weeks ago and now is gathering sponsors. Big push this week to get people to sign on to it. This is part of a statewide action pressuring their legislatures to sign on to this bill. Coalition partners: PCM, NY Renews (coalition of 250 groups in NYS). Worried we won't get good turnout because a lot of actions are happening all over town.

Immigration Vigil: Thursday, April 8 at 5 pm; Staten Island Ferry Terminal

Jamie--Going back there for a second time. Bringing a lot of banners and some pictures. Will have a flyer. Have had undocumented folks come up to us with questions. This led to creating a flyer with some good phone numbers where people answer the phone and can give out information. Title 42—the health code that Trump used to close the border with Mexico in March of 2020 should be undone. Not used at airports; only at the Mexican border. It is creating the unaccompanied minor issue. Title 42 prohibits families from seeking asylum. Biden is allowing unaccompanied minors but their families can't come because they can no longer seek asylum. Just allowing unaccompanied minors; most have family here.

For more information on Title 42:

Good summary and context re: trump's use of Title 42, a CDC public health law:

<https://jhimmigrantsolidarity.org/jhisn-newsletter-09-12-2020/>

More re: Title 42 from ProPublica:

<https://www.propublica.org/article/leaked-border-patrol-memo-tells-agents-to-send-migrants-back-immediately-ignoring-asylum-law>

Anti-filibuster Action: Thursday, April 8 at 6 pm; 9 PPW (Chuck Schumer's residence)

We are working with a Brooklyn group putting pressure on Schumer. Schumer is home now so we are taking advantage of the opportunity to keep the pressure on.

Earth Week-Stop the Money Pipeline Action: Saturday, April 17 at 12:30; Blackrock on 51st between Madison and Park <https://www.facebook.com/events/785025265743870/>

There's a pre-action with other groups going to branches of banks in the area funding line 3. We are walking into branches, reading a letter, making videos of each. Will end at Blackrock. Then marching to Chase, largest fossil fuel funder in the world. Chase is building a huge skyscraper for their new headquarters. There will be a vague action to throw a monkey wrench into the construction. Stu has more info on CD part of the action. Email Stu at Waldman@mikaya.com.

Elevator Action Group—MTA Update

This is the Disability Rights Group in RaR. Formed to try to get elevators in every MTA station. Jessica Murray, a lawyer working on this issue, came as a guest speaker. Actions associated with multiple law suits. Want 100% accessible subways. New zoning proposal working its way through City Council. Corey Johnson idea from 2019; if new buildings are going up adjacent to a subway station, need to create a space for an elevator if it makes sense. The City will provide the developers zoning relief in exchange. MTA will build the elevator and maintain the elevators. Give bonuses to buildings nearby. Those buildings will benefit from being close to subway stations. Will affect up to 94% of current stations. Trying to determine if we should support this issue. Must be discussed at all 59 community board meetings. Want to make sure that the money set aside for accessibility becomes part of an amendment. Discussion about how bad it is to link things that need to be done are used to give developers special treatment and break rules that aren't good for neighborhoods. 900 elevators need to be installed. It's a trade-off between developer bonuses and getting the elevators installed. There's also a good deal of NIMBY. Several mentioned that this whole topic would make for a good discussion in the future.

Links to news stories on this issue

<https://www.nydailynews.com/opinion/ny-oped-get-accessible-subway-on-track-20210405-fquyrnof5rdc3jyh4qbgrjudny-story.html>

<https://champ.gothamist.com/champ/gothamist/news/mta-and-nyc-want-private-developers-install-more-subway-elevators>

<https://bronx.news12.com/2-williamsburg-restaurants-say-mta-construction-project-could-be-their-demise>

More information per Jessica Murray

More details about Zoning for Accessibility can be found here: <https://www1.nyc.gov/site/planning/plans/zoning-for-accessibility/zoning-for-accessibility-overview.page> and a video explainer is here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bBHCEBK7cPk>

Queens Community Board 1 will discuss this proposal (tonight) April 7 starting at 7:10 pm. Agenda and Zoom info are here: <https://www1.nyc.gov/assets/queenscb1/downloads/pdf/committee-meeting-agendas/2021/land-use-committee-agenda-invite-040721.pdf>

Request for RaR to make a donation.

As follow up to the Xr climber accident where Kevin Clarke was injured, Jon and Stu requested that, since we endorsed this action and took part, we should donate the \$200 we usually spend on an action to Kevin's recovery fund. It should be noted that a Go Fund Me was set up and over \$20,000 has already been collected including many individual donations by RaR members. Discussion followed and it was divided between those who wanted to give and those who felt it set a precedent we might not want to follow. **A vote was taken with the outcome unresolved.** <https://www.gofundme.com/f/climate-activist-kevin-clarke-needs-your-help>

There were 8 yeses, 7 no's, and 12 abstentions with 8 people not voting at all. It was decided we would table this for now and have another discussion when there was more time.

Request for RaR to amplify social media for excluded workers.

This request was voted on and passed.

Link to donate to excluded workers fund
<https://connect.clickandpledge.com/w/Form/2ee1a62a-f54a-43ee-8375-a6bfd1890bfb?prv=162088>

Bolsoniaro Benocida

Julie-- Bolsoniaro Benocida in Union Square-memes. Were used in the lead of a progressive news site in Brazil. There was a request for an endorsement for this Brazilian activist group action—tomorrow night in Dumbo, the ask is for folks to join them 7 pm—James Carousel, under the bridge. Hold a letter.

Action is endorsed.

Halt Solitary

Donna—The governor signed it.

NON-RISE AND RESIST ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mark Hannay—Neighborhood residents' march on Sunday to bring attention to the overkill and rebuilding of the East River Park.

Katrina--www.coalitionforthehomeless.org/get-help/im-being-evicted/

They are asking people to stand with them for eviction prevention/ rent assistance before waiting for Cuomo's help. Email kat.corbell.19@gmail.com for more information.

RISE AND RESIST