

## Rise and Resist General Meeting - Zoom Edition - 12.20.2022

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### Rise and Resist Contact Information

- Website: [www.riseandresist.org](http://www.riseandresist.org)
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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:** Jay and Jamie **Notes:** Sandy

### GOOD NEWS!

Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS makes a big donation to RAR. Tom Viola, Equity Fights Aids was behind this after speaking to Jackie Rudin. Jackie asked for \$10,000 and he gave us \$15,000.

Jan 6 Committee refers Trump for criminal prosecution. Now we need a Grand Jury and some indictments.

HSBC agrees to no new fossil fuel projects. Now we can put pressure on other banks and financial institutions to do the same.

Ways and Means Committee votes to make Trump's tax returns public  
<https://www.nytimes.com/live/2022/12/20/us/trump-taxes-news>

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### UPCOMING ACTIONS

**12/21 Elevator Actions at MTA Board Meeting** + a planning meeting

Testimony is being given tomorrow at 2 pm at 2 Broadway.  
There is no safety without accessibility is the main message.  
There is virtual testifying—see link in chat.

Planning meeting on Dec. 28. —will present ideas in actions.

<https://new.mta.info/transparency/board-and-committee-meetings/december-2022>



Maybe 4 large signs for the action with each of the charges.  
There will be a Facebook page for this event which will go up tomorrow.

### Action Committee report back on NYYRC Gala - what we would do differently in retrospect

Two things could have done differently

We should have taken a step back altogether and retreated and talked about what we wanted to do. Instead, we just started to do things.

We should have taken a bust. We should have stood in front of the doors, held our signs, waited for the warnings. We weren't prepared for CD but we might have gone ahead had we talked about it at the moment. Next time we go to something like this, we should be prepared to get arrested. Jackie suggested maybe we need a refresher on CD because we may need it. We need to be ready to stand our ground.

We also didn't have a designated photographer.

No one covered what happened there. NY Times didn't assign a report or photographer. It wasn't in the paper until it appeared on social media. The media coverage centered on the Southern Poverty Law Center's focus. The reporters went inside very early so no one was outside. Maybe we send a press release to our known media sources next time. Might be worthwhile to contact the SPLC so next time, we have some communication and coordination with them. We need a dedicated person to talk to SPLC. Donna volunteered to talk to SPLC.

<https://www.splcenter.org/hatewatch/2021/01/22/capitol-insurrection-shows-how-trends-far-right-s-fringe-have-become-mainstream>

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### Discussion about Eric Bottcher and the Drag Story Time Events

A group of haters showed up on Saturday at a drag story hour in a library in Chelsea. Eric Bottcher was at the story hour since it's in his district. The haters engaged with him and posted it on his Instagram. Yesterday they went to his office, tried to get in, yelled outside his office and then they vandalized the hallway outside the building. Two hours later, they got Eric's personal phone # and left horrific messages on his phone; showed up at his apt building, screamed at him, called him a groomer, pedophile etc. Two of the women involved have been arrested. Crowd started to disperse after they were arrested.

<https://www.amny.com/news/women-vandalize-erik-bottcher-office-homophobic-slurs/>

<https://twitter.com/taliaotg/status/1605310472307503105>

<https://twitter.com/taliaotg/status/1605051479781507072>

We know some of the haters involved. Same people who protest us and they also counter protest at BLM protests; same people in a car that drove through a BLM event.

### What could we do or how could we support Eric Botcher?

Jay texted with Eric last night; he seems to be okay. Jackie wrote him a note and he thanked her for her support. Eric feels very supported. Nothing more we need to do to support him personally. What would be good would be to investigate the Drag Storytelling events all over the City. They need our support.

Need a message that can appeal to more people. “Just haters” doesn’t do it. There is a 1000+ organized group called Far Right Conspiracy Theorists.

Messaging—protect children from hate mongering.

Could this be included in a communication to SPLC by Donna

All needs to be contextualized against the bigger story which is what’s going on with the LGBTQ community all over the world.

We need to view the Republicans as groomers of hatred and violence.

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## REPORT BACKS

**12/15--Rikers Vigil**--Thursday Dec 15 at 5 pm in Times Sq. Subway Station near Shuttle. Went to the Times Sq subway station in the shuttle area. Had about 18 people. Arranged ourselves differently this time, signs on the side of the banner rather than behind. Lots of people rushed by. We gave out 300 flyers. Ray loved the space and hearing the Spanish ballads, New Yorkers rushing back and forth.

Not a classically good space because people were walking fast but this space really felt like NYC. Didn’t expect as many people to be sympathetic.

There were 5 police there initially and they came up and said they agreed with us.

Two people came in the middle from Freedom Agenda to support us and stayed until the end.

**12/16--Say Their Names** canceled due to rain - every Friday at 4:30PM

No Say Their Names on Friday, December 23 or 30. Next meeting is the first Friday in January, Jan. 6.

**12/18—Immigration Action**--Sunday Dec 18 at 12:15 58th St./5th Ave. - Mary and Joseph were Seeking Asylum- Immigration Action

We started at the Plaza Fountain and walked down to the Cathedral. We paused from time to time and assembled ourselves. People paid a lot of attention and took lots of pictures. Weather was good and the street was closed. When we got to St. Pat’s and mass was ending, we turned around and faced the Cathedral so the people pouring out could see the banners and signs. It was a great move to be in front as people came out of mass. People were really surprised and took a lot of pictures. Next time we should have some kind of beat or music. The open Fifth Avenue worked well for us. We could take up the whole street and be very visible. Next year maybe just try to set up at St. Pat’s.

**12/19--ARREST TRUMP** Lights Monday Dec 19 at 4:30 pm at Trump Tower

Had quite a few people. Some people with signs in front of the building. Others holding the lights(which spelled out ARREST TRUMP) next to the street behind the cement barrier. Tons of positive reactions; a few negatives. It was cold. People were taking tons of photos from across the street. The timing of this action made it particularly exciting to be part of. It was a bit dangerous for the photographers running into the street. We might want to have someone dedicated to watching the traffic. Needed a couple of marshals watching the cars and wearing reflective vests. Lots of tourists posed with the smaller signs. We might want to have a QR code

with a hashtag so people can access more information.

**12/20 Truth Tuesday** at FOX “News” every Tuesday at 12 noon

Lot of negative reactions today. A few guys poured water over Kim’s chalk and were working to erase the messages and they wouldn’t go away. We occupied them with the chalk to distract them so they wouldn’t make more trouble.

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### **Non-RaR announcements**

The Earth Bill--Todd Fernandez—Good news! After a year, a new piece of legislation called The Earth Bill has been submitted. These are mandates to move away from polluting sources. Earth Bill - Press Release: <https://bit.ly/EarthBillPressRelease>

Rep. Espaillat’s Tweet on introduction of Earth Bill:  
<https://twitter.com/RepEspaillat/status/1603506616053153792>

[climatecrisispolicy@gmail.com](mailto:climatecrisispolicy@gmail.com)

Join the Longest Night Vigil this Wednesday, December 21 from 3 - 6 PM. We will gather at the Armory, located at 651 West 168th Street near Broadway at 3 PM and then have a candlelight procession two blocks to the small triangular park at 170th Street and Broadway where we will stand in solidarity with the homeless encamped there. The event, which marks the longest, darkest night of the year, is being co-hosted by VOCAL-NY, Iglesia del Pueblo, Freedom Church of the Poor, the National Union of the Homeless and the NYC Poor People’s Campaign.

January book event:

[https://www.facebook.com/events/705817460899787?acontext=%7B%22event\\_action\\_history%22%3A%7B%22extra\\_data%22%3A%22%22%2C%22mechanism%22%3A%22left\\_rail%22%2C%22surface%22%3A%22bookmark%22%7D%2C%7B%22extra\\_data%22%3A%22%22%2C%22mechanism%22%3A%22your\\_upcoming\\_events\\_unit%22%2C%22surface%22%3A%22bookmark%22%7D%2C%22ref\\_notif\\_type%22%3A%22null%7D](https://www.facebook.com/events/705817460899787?acontext=%7B%22event_action_history%22%3A%7B%22extra_data%22%3A%22%22%2C%22mechanism%22%3A%22left_rail%22%2C%22surface%22%3A%22bookmark%22%7D%2C%7B%22extra_data%22%3A%22%22%2C%22mechanism%22%3A%22your_upcoming_events_unit%22%2C%22surface%22%3A%22bookmark%22%7D%2C%22ref_notif_type%22%3A%22null%7D)

Link to Wendy’s Action Newsletter

[HTTPS://MAILCHI.MP/0F437F6B45F2/MAKE-MY-BIRTHDAY-BY-CALLING-YOUR-SENATORS](https://MAILCHI.MP/0F437F6B45F2/MAKE-MY-BIRTHDAY-BY-CALLING-YOUR-SENATORS)

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