

## Rise and Resist General Meeting - Zoom Edition - 11.3.2020

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### Rise and Resist Contact Information

- Website: [www.riseandresist.org](http://www.riseandresist.org)
  - Email list signup <http://eepurl.com/cCzq1X>
  - Twitter: [www.twitter.com/RiseandResistNY](https://www.twitter.com/RiseandResistNY)
  - Facebook: [www.facebook.com/RiseandResistNYC/](https://www.facebook.com/RiseandResistNYC/)
  - Instagram: [www.instagram.com/risenresistnyc/](https://www.instagram.com/risenresistnyc/)
  - General email: [info@riseandresist.org](mailto:info@riseandresist.org)
  - Press email: [media@riseandresist.org](mailto:media@riseandresist.org)
  - Meetings: Every Tuesday at 7pm on Zoom. To sign up for the Zoom meeting [click here](#)
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**Facilitators:** Jamie & Stu **Notes:** Sandy

### Rise and Resist General Meeting – Zoom Edition-11.03.20

Stu opened the meeting by reading the mission statement and it bears repeating here:

*Rise and Resist was formed in response to the 2016 U.S. election. We are a direct-action group made up of both new and experienced activists committed to opposing, disrupting, and defeating any government act that threatens democracy, equality, and our civil liberties. We work collaboratively, creatively, respectfully, and with all the joy we can muster for the health of the people and the planet.*

*We reject State-sanctioned violence, bigotry, and systemic discrimination in all its forms, including those directed at people because of their disability, gender identity/expression, immigration status, race, religion, sex, and sexuality. We condemn all the oppressive policies that define the current government regime. We strive to intentionally honor the complex challenges we face. Join us in fighting for justice!*

### REPORT BACKS

#### **PBA/Trump Action: Thursday, October 29 at 5 pm**

Stu: Organized by Dmitri with Rev Billy, by PBA headquarters. We were where the Vietnam Vet memorial is. Quite a raucous event. 50 people; at least 100 cops. Bicycle cops were in their new uniforms. Their intention was to frighten people but Stu thought they looked more comical. 1/2 hr marching in a circle with photos of police violence. Rev Bill spoke and Jay Walker gave a great speech.

Rick: Saw the pics. Billy brought costumes which made it look very carnival looking. Others noted that these costumes were a great contrast to the police in their riot gear. Good visual juxtaposition. The costumes are effective.

### **Count Every Vote Action: Saturday, October 31, Times Square**

Jamie: Saturday in Times Sq. Less traffic than expected but still very visible and a lot of people taking pictures. NBC and CBS were there. We did not get much media coverage for it on TV but did get a lot of media press coverage through Eric's pics and through Reuters. Robert was in the NYTimes; Zak was in Reuter's coverage. Zak also was in the Daily News.

### **Count Every Vote Action: Tuesday, November 3, Times Square**

Jackie Rudin—today was great; the same place in Times Sq. Set up the banners and had wonderful posters. A lot of people showed up; photographers were there; video photographers; got a lot of interviews. NBC interviewed Alexis. Robert did interviews with Japanese new media and others. A lot of video; a lot of interviewing. Don't know where some of them landed. Hopefully some with big social media followings. Great camaraderie and great action. Gratifying to get together and be together and acknowledge our 4 years together.

Alexandra: Echoing what people said. Very moving. Felt lovely. The weather was not bad. A bunch of us were positioned on this high ridge so we were above the MAGA. Those on the ground level stayed out of the way of the MAGA. There were some attempts to be provocative but we didn't bite. Juliet, one of our main trolls, stayed back. The naked cowboy was there.

### **Elka demo in Poland and Vienna**

Elka had the ERT approve her actions there. Supported the feminist movement and asked the Supreme Court to reverse their stand on abortion. Needs to be voted on by meeting members. **This action was voted in the affirmative.**

### **Say Their Names: Friday, October 30 at 96<sup>th</sup> St. and Broadway**

Jenny leads a BLM demonstration. It's continuing **every Friday**. Time has changed to accommodate Daylight Savings Time. It's on for 5 pm Friday, November 6. May move earlier as it gets darker earlier.

## **UPCOMING ACTIONS**

### **Protect the Vote coalition and plans**

Jamie: This is a national group-Protect the results-Indivisible and Stand up America—500 demonstrations across the U.S. are being planned if Trump declares victory or tries to take any kind of action that he is not going to follow the Electoral process all the way through. Most think Trump will try to declare some kind of victory tonight; will try to dis-enfranchise mail-in ballots. NY group will check in with the National group at noon on Wednesday to see if we go into the streets.

Marshals will gather at 3 pm on steps of NY Pub Lib. The general public will arrive at 4 pm with the expectation that will start to march around 4:30 pm. Might move earlier if it's a large crowd. March will go from the Library down to Wash Sq Park. Might be a couple of speakers before; might be some speakers and music in the park at the end. Will depend on how the police accommodate us and allow a sound system. As of last night, 5000 signed up; could be a large demo.

A lot of concerns—one is NYPD talking a lot publicly about disturbances and potential looting; encouraging boarding up; buildings getting more security. Doesn't make us feel good about demonstrating. Will start in daylight which makes it a bit safer; a lot of marshals; special troll

patrol group to look for and handle counter-protestors and hecklers. Hope is that this will be a positive demo that if we go out again, people will be comfortable going out again. Want it to be as safe as possible. This is about counting the votes and a peaceful transition of power. This group is committed to doing more demos. No others are definite but may go out again on Thursday. 4 pm from Barclays. Friday is a rally at 4 pm downtown—Wash Sq Park; Sat-large demo time TBD out of Columbus Circle.

Donna: Coalition and outreach—we started with a few groups and worked hard to get others. Now have over 70 to 75 groups. A very good representation of activists within NYC. All kinds of groups. Indivisible, community, nurses, etc. Churches, climate groups, democratic clubs, etc. 87 groups as of now in NYC. 500 all over the country.

Will have people with bullhorns to keep our chanting on message. With a coalition, it's not as controllable but has more people.

Cherie: Have a lot of contingencies planned. In the Gothamist, may need a contingency plan around NYPD is thinking about freeze zones that could impede the march route.

Jamie: We need to convince them that it will be easier and safe to let us march through. the big question—what is next? The coalition will go week by week.

Have talked at the action Committee about when, if needed, civil disobedience becomes necessary. Actions will meet at 1 pm on Thursday on zoom about what's next.

Any concerns about violence? From our experience with MAGA, they like to try to escalate things so you throw the first punch. That's part of their thing—they then look like victims of left-wing aggression.

Alexandra: What would happen if the route does get blocked? We would stop the march; would ask everyone to sit down on Fifth Ave. And would talk to the police to let us proceed. If not, we would work out another route.

Jamie doesn't see any advantage to the police refusing us the original path. It doesn't go by anything important. Nothing on that path this is important to pass or protect.

Alexis: In the past, the police have presented us with their demands. RAR has decided to walk a different route. We have experience with these kinds of changes; have worked out successfully in the past.

Jennifer and Jon: Bringing peaceful items such as flowers and signage. Justin was concerned, too, about what the police are going to do. We know how to operate in a lot of ways; we know how to do this. Someone recommended peaceful signage and flowers. Flowers make for a really good optic.

The idea of wearing protective gear was raised.

Rick W: The idea of wearing protective gear is the opposite of that. It escalates the tension; the wrong thing to do.

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