

Rise and Resist General Meeting - Zoom Edition - 10.6.2020

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: Jennifer and Alexandra **Notes:** Sandy

GOOD NEWS!

First item is quite amazing; testimony of the hard work of the elevator action group. They have been working for years to make all subway stations accessible. This week, the MTA indicated they will not further appeal Judge's decision for applying NYC Human Rights Law. Direct action works. This court case is about accessibility and human rights. The MTA can no longer say they don't have to abide by the ADA. This is still a long-term fight but the MTA has given up the right to appeal. It was direct action, persistence and consistency of the message that worked. This showed up in the press.

Second item: Jackie Rudin chatted that The Nazi Stephen Miller has just tested positive for COVID. That so many people who "deserve" to get COVID did. A bit of Schadenfreude is in order. This tilts things against Trump. Good for these folks to need to be quarantining right now. Alexandra: The reality principle needs to prevail and now it finally has.

Jenny: Ann Shirazi wrote a beautiful letter to The NY Times today.

Another piece of good news in the chat: The gun toting couple in St. Louis, Patricia and Mark McCloskey, were indicted.

REPORT BACKS

Halt Solitary: Wednesday, September 30, City Hall

About 5 or 6 RaR members were outside of DeBlasio's office at City Hall. It was a spirited and moving demonstration. Many of those involved had been in solitary themselves. They talked about how it stays with you for the rest of your life. This was one of a series of halt solitary demonstrations. The ultimate goal is to see a bill passed in Albany when the state legislature goes back into session. This action had been previously endorsed.

Close the Camps: Friday, October 2, March from Grand Central

Marched down to Amazon bookstore; did an invasion protesting the fact that they sell cloud computing services to ICE and Homeland Security. #CloseTheCamps. #AbolishICE. Police stayed clear. People left before the NYPD moved in. Moved on to Reuters. Tried another occupation. Got manhandled by Thomson Reuters and didn't get in to do the action. Same number of protestors as cops. They were bike cops; an elite, aggressive unit. Same group that was at Wash Square a few weeks ago. Use their bikes as battering rams. They were not aggressive here but they can be very aggressive. This action had been previously endorsed.

Say Their Names: Friday, October 2, 96th and Broadway

One point of difference this past Friday was that we had the loudest speaker so far and that was good. Names were very audible from a distance. Continued with the 3 banners and more names. Will be there this Friday from 5 to 6 pm. Today there was another person killed. Alexandra: Ann and Jenny told the group that they already came up with a bigger sheet of paper; will be adding more names; reading the names will take longer. Now people are taking turns to read columns of names. Deep resonance to this action.

Stop the GOP Coup / Vote action Saturday, October 3, Trump Tower

Three banner actions. Stop the GOP Cover-up banner was used in front of Trump Tower. 5 RaR members went over for 10 minutes; long enough to shoot some pictures. Now we need to get it out on Social Media. Made a long and short film that we want to get out. Was submitted to Comms and Media but have not seen it. ERT vote affirmed this trifecta of actions. Action was approved in this meeting.

Saturday, October 3, Grand Army Plaza, Brooklyn

A few RaR members hung out by the Farmer's Market. Everyone was pretty unengaged. Mostly preaching to the converted; people wanted to shop and were relatively oblivious to us for the hour and hour and a half.

Tuesday, October 6, Circle on 15th Street and Prospect Park West

We joined Robert Ayers for a bit (he is planning to go out every day). Got 50-75 honks and thumbs up; some negative stuff.

UPCOMING ACTIONS

Immigration Action—Abolish ICE: Thursday, October 8 at 5 pm, Manhattan Bridge Plaza

Messaging will be different for this demonstration with more emphasis on hysterectomies and sexual abuse; focusing more on ICE abuse. Have redesigned old banners. These actions at Manhattan Bridge Plaza are amazing because you are part of the message to the cars and we can be seen from far away; car traffic is responsive.

Action dedicated to Layleen Polanco: Sunday, October 11 at 1 pm, Foley Square

Layleen was a 27-year-old trans woman who died in solitary confinement at Rikers Island in June of 2019. She was denied medical care for an epileptic seizure. Case settled for \$6M; Bronx DA said no to criminal charges for the officers though they were required to look in on her every 15 minutes. She was denied bail for \$500.

Hospital Beds Not Body Bags: Friday, October 9 at 4:30 to 5:30 pm, Diversity Plaza, Queens

Taking the beautiful posters with # of beds per capita in Manhattan vs. Queens and also deaths. In addition to body bags and posters, we will be handing out literature talking about these issues. Katrina is working on statements about the fact that 9 hospitals have been shut down which contributed to multiple deaths in Queens. To make it more visible, they are putting one hospital's information on each tombstone. In the past 20 years, 9 hospitals have shut down in Queens. Queens has the lowest number of hospital beds per 1,000 people for any county with hospitals.

We have put up a facebook event; will send it to Media and Comms. The Facebook event is up for Friday. Mark Hannay is connecting with the Nurse's union.

March for the Dead: Sunday, October 18, Virtual Action & Sunday, November 1, March from Union Square

#MyCOVIDstory March beginning at Union Square on November 1. Outreach to houses of worship; healthcare workers; message: vote for politicians who don't kill people.

OTHER ITEMS

Election resources and links

Alexandra: Progressive Democrats of America phone banking

Sandy: A wide variety of election engagement activities

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/vusgjivhnn1j1y/List%20of%20Election%20Engagement%20Opportunities.docx?dl=0>

Alexandra: <https://www.dropbox.com/s/55p6ebrwtnb9mnw/Voter%20Encouragement%20Resources.docx?dl=0>

Jennifer Van Dyck : <https://www.voteearlyny.org>

alexisdanzig : Interested in supporting DC actions on/around 10/12 with CPD etc.? HMU!
alexisdanzig@gmail.com

Sandy Radoff : Link to join Slack Workspace to get updates on See Something Say Something:
https://join.slack.com/t/seesay2020/shared_invite/zt-i3u49a69-_rgEy6pSAWOTaD_Fwkaojw

Pressuring Schumer

Want to send Schumer a million messages. Schumer is feeling the pressure but we can't let up. Zephyr talks about ways to get Schumer's attention. There is a video emphasizing "Delay, distrust, delegitimize"; stop this nomination. Resist adjournment. Call Schumer now. Schumer was on Indivisible call and has some plans but doesn't want to reveal them because Republicans would take advantage. Schumer says if he does something too fast too soon, it could backfire.

Livvie Mann : Delay! Delegitimize! Call Schumer and tell him no adjournment until the nomination is postponed. <https://twitter.com/CPDAction/status/1313086534367674371?s=20>
Senate phone #s 202-899-8938

No More Years

Merging two actions—have done 3 actions—no more years Immigration, racism, pandemic, no more years, a riff on 4 more years. Before the next Presidential debate, we want to hold the banner which says "Count every vote/Every vote counts". Since NBC is hosting the final debate,

we want to do it at Rockefeller center earlier in the day as a press conference. Lay out a case for why we want no more years. Could be used in cable news build-up to the election coverage of the debate. 15 are in the No More Years group. Looking to mobilize a larger No More Years group.

Protect the Vote Coalition

Several RaR members were on a call to discuss creating a coalition that will work with national groups to go out into the streets and protect the vote if it's clear after Nov. 3 that Trump has not clearly won or lost and says he has won. Protest the electoral process around mail in ballot counting. We want a demonstration planned and ready to go in case. Or maybe a series of actions. The groups include MoveOn, Indivisible, and some local people. Other groups include Justin Hendrickson, an independent organization person in NY. We worked with them on the Mueller report and after impeachment fell apart.

This coalition group is only interested in AFTER the election. But we have some messages we want to get out BEFORE THE ELECTION so any demonstrations before the election will be RaR alone; after the election, we will be part of a coalition.

We will want to formally endorse joining this coalition—graphics, Comms, marshaling etc. Alexis is doing some Marshall training for this coalition. RaR can play a leadership role in terms of marshaling, press etc.

The NY organizing group is not saying if Trump does this then we're going to do this. Just trying to get people mobilized to say stop, the election is not over yet. We need to insist that every vote gets counted until someone legitimately gets 270 electoral votes. Listening to Trump suggests this is necessary but it may not be necessary.

While endorsing this action was thought to be premature since we don't have dates, locations etc. AND it's really more than endorsing, we took a vote on whether RaR should take on a major role in this coalition work.

A vote was taken and it was approved that RaR should take a major role in this coalition work.

In preparation for messaging before November 3, and Every vote counts/count every vote banner has been ordered; should have it by the end of this week. Plan it to take it to different media outlets besides on the 22nd. Use it to encourage early voting starting Oct. 24. Can take it out with any other anti-Trump banners. Want to try to organize/stage banner holdings where we think we'll get some visibility.

RaR approved Every vote counts/count every vote banner and a plan to do a lot of small actions.

This will be taken to actions and see what people are up for. Will do a test run and get a sense for people's reactions. This could be a pass the banner off action.

Some suggested it would be appropriate to have the banner at one of the Say Their Names actions. Voting is very relevant to the action. A tentative plan was made to hand the banner over at the Manhattan Bridge Plaza action so it could be used at 96th and Broadway.

Finance: \$990 draft went to Robert which will save us \$2,000 in accountant fees.

Non-RaR Announcements

Reminder about a Women's March in DC on Sat. Oct. 17th; no more information yet; carpooling is the main way to go but Amtrak is running for those comfortable with the train.

For inspiration, the NY Peace Action annual William Sloane Coffin, Jr. Award ceremony last night honoring Desmond Meade is fantastic. Meade was responsible for reclaiming the vote for ex-felons in Florida and is now paying their court fees (a modern-day poll tax) so they can vote. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NR0nGwEFFF0&feature=youtu.be>

Jenny recommends gregpalast.com for excellent coverage of election fraud . He spoke so depressingly informative at the Peace Action William Sloane Coffin award ceremony. And Desmond Meade was just superb.

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