

## Rise and Resist General Meeting - Zoom Edition - 12.1.2020

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### Rise and Resist Contact Information

- Website: [www.riseandresist.org](http://www.riseandresist.org)
  - Email list signup <http://eepurl.com/cCzq1X>
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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 Sandy    **Notes:** Alexandra

**Good news! More good news!** - More states certify, more campaign lawsuits fail. PA, AZ certified. Bill Barr said the Election was not fraudulent. (Meanwhile, a new scandal is brewing: Payment for Pardons)

### REPORT BACKS

#### 11/25 Biden/BlackRock climate action plus upcoming Bank Of America action

Stuart: Brian Deese worked under Obama, then went to Black Rock. Biden is considering putting him as chair of the Economic Council. We should not have an employee of BR in this position. There was some Twitter action telling us we should not complain about Biden. We feel we should object. We don't think it is going to work; our aim is to raise second thoughts.

Climate group had an endorsed action: Bank of America was the only bank that was still going to drill in Artic. The chair just said that it will not finance Arctic drilling. And banks will not finance coal. Both are terrible investments. This is low hanging fruit. Activists' pushing has helped. The next step is to get banks to swear off investing in all fossil fuel; this will be the focus of Climate Group for the next two years.

#### 11/26 Thanksgiving Day Balloon Action

Jamie: News came quickly after the action was developed: Emily Murphy agreed to transition, Michigan certified Michigan votes. We decided to go ahead with action. About 15 RaR members met on steps of AMNH, chanted holding names of people who are destroying democracy, carried the trump Rat for 2 blocks, and deflated it. Police stopped us from going further. But a good time was had by all.

#### 11/27 Beds Not Body Bags at Corona Plaza

Alexandra and Leon: This was our third action. Quite a few RaR members present. News 1, Fox, and Noticias press. Several community members participated, including Donovan Richards, Borough President-Elect, and Ingrid Gomez <https://gomezforqueens.com/> who is running for City Council seat in Corona.

Questions: Cuomo is going to have the hospitals cooperate. Will that change things?  
Jay: Structural racism involves never providing services in underserved communities. Leon: shifting chairs on the Titanic.

Discussion of how we got press: Leon was very persistent.

Mary: recommended training for getting the press to come.

**Jay has updated the press list.**

### **11/27 Say Their Names at 96th/Broadway - 4:30 PM start time**

Vivian: We are up to 8 long columns of names of people we stand to honor. Rush hour, photographs. New people join in and read names.

Mary H noticed that **the Public Theater was also doing Say Their Names**. Maybe we should keep an eye out for other people doing theirs and show up if we can?

### **11/27 Run Him Out of Town banner action in Philadelphia**

George de C discussed the trip with Trump Rat to Philadelphia; went to 4 Seasons Landscaping Company; then to the real Four Seasons (they were furious). Runners took turns running with Run Trump Out of the Whitehouse banner.

### **Teen Vogue photo**

RAR photo of a 2019 action to get DeVos out of our schools was used in [Teen Vogue article addressing DeVoss's departure.](#)

## **NEW AND UPCOMING ACTIONS**

### **New York Young Republicans Dinner - Thursday, December 3 at 5:30 PM - location TBD - let's try to get this canceled!**

George De C: we went down to the Caldwell Building at 26<sup>th</sup> Street to take shots to prepare for the Young Republicans Dinner Action. We could use the Rat, and Betsy M has the Trump Chicken.

Jamie: Many people tried to find out what venue it would be at after it moved out of the Caldwell Building.

- A spokesperson for The Caldwell Factory said, "The Caldwell Factory has no knowledge of this event. Due to the pandemic and government restrictions, the venue has been closed for months and remains so, and no events have been booked."
- May be at the National Republicans Women's Club.
- Superspreader event: lies and virus. Sherriff is prepared to shut it down.
- We don't yet have an address.
- Andy Humm followed up with Corey Johnson. Reached out to Mayor, Gov, Bd of Health and Young Republicans. Got responses.

- Jamie: it is very difficult to get accurate information about what is allowed. The Sherriff gave the wrong info and then acknowledged his mistake.
- Because of Twitter warfare, we can't get the info we want using the usual channels. The good news is we got to them.
- Young R. response: "capricious restrictions" plus analysis of Dem control of the populace through fear. Economy collapsing, suicides. They called a RAR member (or Andy Humm?) "Impotent yogurt!" Said to Stu: "I'll make sure to cough up a storm at your local soy latte coffee shop"
- Jay: they are desperate for money
- Does not make sense to have a \$375 fundraiser event.

This event sparked much interest, hilarity, appreciation for the sleuth work done, and a report in the chat from Robert about the "The Masque of the Red Death": a short story by Poe. "The story follows Prince Prospero's attempts to avoid a dangerous plague, known as the Red Death, by hiding in his abbey. He, along with many other wealthy nobles, hosts a masquerade ball in seven rooms of the abbey, each decorated with a different color. In the midst of their revelry, a mysterious figure disguised as a Red Death victim enters and makes his way through each of the rooms. Prospero dies after confronting this stranger, whose "costume" proves to contain nothing tangible inside it; the guests also die in turn."

<https://gothamist.com/news/defiant-ny-young-republican-club-plans-indoor-gala-featuring-sarah-palin>

<https://www.thedailybeast.com/ny-young-republicans-host-sarah-palin-james-okeefe-at-galain-a-damn-pandemic>

[https://nyyrc.com/statements/nyyrc-responds-to-cuomos-attacks/?fbclid=IwAR3i0CIKeUvXpTfWgWyH4ko5n2RSZ3imLAK9DE25\\_0b6P4xc1zKuFo2oJYY](https://nyyrc.com/statements/nyyrc-responds-to-cuomos-attacks/?fbclid=IwAR3i0CIKeUvXpTfWgWyH4ko5n2RSZ3imLAK9DE25_0b6P4xc1zKuFo2oJYY)

Discussion: Do we want to figure out where it is or is not going to be, or just keep tweeting?

- Due diligence is the action.
- We do not want to appear like superspreaders.
- The City is on this. We should let them enforce.
- This could be an affinity group action, but it is open and will go to Actions.
- George may go to take a photo of Sarah with the Trump rat.
- Several people were up for a small affinity group action.
- Striking that people who should know the rules do not, like the Sherriff. Seems to be: **25% capacity or 50 people, whichever is lower.**

### **Next Beds Not Body Bags will be on December 19: location TBD**

Report back from Protect The Results - where we are in the election process.

Jamie: PTR feels the system is working, that there is no issue of state legislatures sending in false electors. As a consequence no national phone meetings going on right now.

### **Facilitation recommendation - can we cancel our meeting on December 29?**

- **RaR voted to cancel the December 29 meeting.**

**Discussion - Post Trump Stress Disorder** - how are you feeling and coping with the election being over and a long winter ahead of us?

Physical also mental health issues. SAD: Seasonal Affective Disorder.

Maryellen led off the discussion with her own experience of crisis after trump-out when she was “supposed to be happy”. Isolation, let down, a high degree of stress.

Themes:

- Bridge connections; create a subgroup maybe with healthcare?: the transition from actions to a more personal focus.
- More social time together is really needed. Regenerative. This brought much support. (Donna’s b’day, seeing chosen family)
- Create a subgroup, possibly with Healthcare?
- Several people talked about feeling much stress and ongoing worry, needing to pick up the pieces of their lives.
  - Daunting to think of the next 8 months.
- Reach out to each other on a personal basis, and one at a time.
- Experience of coming out of an abusive relationship.
  - Abuser metaphor. Even if you get away, there is always the chance that they can come back.
  - “I will never be able to relax.”
- We have much work to do, including pushing back against Biden’s appointments
- Being better at communicating with each other, and those who voted against us.
- Feeling of ongoing danger.
- The stress of working within a divided congress. We did not sink. The ship needs to go into dry dock for a major overhaul.
- The trump cult is very much alive
- Potentially worse fascists are in the making.
- Won’t be able to relax until 100 days into the new administration
- Could we invite Sharon Salsberg back?
- Various ideas for moments to pause: in meetings to have breathing and grounding exercises; Robert would be willing to help with these; in actions (people mentioned a couple of these experiences. Robert would be willing to help with these.
- RAR as a source of mental health and grounding.

## **Finance**

Mary H: had several tote bags made from an old banner. She wants to sell them off as a fundraiser. Contact Mary at: : me@maryhawkins.com

- We maybe gave some banners from that action to some of the UFT people who joined us that day
- Discussion of whether RaR is OK financially and needs fundraisers or not.
  - We have potential donors
  - We could expand our range if we had more money
  - We are drawing in less than we are spending.
  - We could raise money for other groups
- We could arrange to get RAR tote bags to sell online

- o Various ideas for fundraisers: ETSY, an auction, and party, etc.
- o We need to move fast to get XMAS items ready.
- This led to a discussion of the importance of archiving RAR materials.

## **OTHER ACTIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**March for the Dead Fight for the Living: January 1 Queens under the Unisphere.** 4-5 pm.  
 Ken: Peace through Understanding; hope. We have not been able to grieve in the past. Have church bells ringing all through the city, maybe in other cities. Image of hope: Candles and water; singers. Clothesline project: a piece of clothing from each person who has died from COVID. Judson Church is interested as are other groups.

**RAR endorsed this Jan 1 action to March for the dead and fight for the living.**

### **12/14 1 pm City council meeting on Zoom regarding housing.**

Katrina: You can submit written testimony up to 3 days afterward.

- Outreach to homeless individuals.
- Coalition for the Homeless. Key is to get testimony from people who know about the issues, and not have decisions made by officials who know nothing about homelessness. They need to hear that they are doing a terrible job. Get NYPD out of the shelters.
- For more info, contact Katrina at [katrinacorbell@outlook.com](mailto:katrinacorbell@outlook.com)

### **Sat 12/12 Fight for Our Lives Rally 12 – 2 PM EST at Sen Schumer’s Office - 780 3rd Ave, New York, NY**

Mike D: Organized by NYC DSA in coordination with national DSA actions for COVID crisis relief, Healthcare Emergency Guarantee Act, and a Green New Deal

<https://www.facebook.com/events/703789376927007>

### **Rally to protect Amazon workers Dec 2 at 2:00 at Jeff Bezos’s house, 215 5th Ave**

<https://www.facebook.com/events/378947753220081>

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