

Rise and Resist General Meeting - Zoom Edition - 3.24.2020

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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Notes - Alexandra **Facilitators** - Elka and Kellen **ASL Signer** - Elizabeth

Introduction to Zoom:

How to raise hand and lower hand (in participants); how to indicate that we want to speak (in chat)

How are we feeling?

37 participants: These notes were taken as one stream to reflect that each voice spoke in some way for the group.

Glad to meet via zoom, job loss with no clear prospects, stir crazy in one's apartment, feeling comparatively very fortunate. Everything was happening so fast, something every hour. Now my legs are under me sort of...new normal...everything that we planned for months is not on the calendar...good time to start meetings; my family is far away, and I feel as if I come from another planet. Been very busy working, which is an antidote; social gathering by zoom. Initially very freaked out; focusing on social media work; pretty horrible, am I going to survive? Great to meet on zoom; the banner action has filled me with joy; I have been tweeting it everywhere. This is what it was like to be a gay man in the 80's; ACT UP responded. We are built for this without experience. We can wrap our arms around each other virtually. What a fine group of people; this gives us an opportunity to be together and share love. I could see all the thought that went into the banner. My soul drinks in the beauty of you all. Sharing information in Mexico; not sure how to translate this into action. My anxiety is spiking; I am very privileged. Within a half hour of waking up, I am gritting my teeth and have a headache. Not bored; sometimes I try to put up light stuff. Gardening is a privilege; zoom allows people with disabilities to be in this meeting; groups have rapidly pivoted to online technologies that they said were impossible before. I don't feel bitter. I also feel my anxiety spiking. Better to do quick check-ins on the news; surprisingly busy, though a lot of projects dried up. Making cloth masks for a home; they had none and were panicked about this. Assuming that this is a long haul ahead of us. Those of us who fought to get that monster out were so right. One person is a writer, with privilege, monkish; partner who comes from Taiwan said this is coming, you are acting as if it is not. I am

ok much of the time; teaching remotely to students who have totally different levels of privilege; feels obscene. Very worried about being in Queens which is a hot area. Many single parents are struggling. My terrors. I am often not able to come to the meeting either. Coping with anxiety is very typical for people with disability. People can learn a lot about this experience, like being housebound. I am really scared and upset about people's reactions to Cuomo. He is doing his job right now, but he is a horrible person. He put Byford out of office and replaced him with someone incompetent. It is so triggering for me to hear he should be president. Maybe that is where I am putting my anxiety; I am also so happy to see everyone's faces. We are lucky very lucky to have a cabin in the woods. We cook, and hike. I am seeing all these places that are empty, like the Oculus. Once this is over we need to get right back onto it. Cuomo is awful. We have so much; we are trying to donate to people who don't have resources. So soul fulfilling to see all of you. Have been feeling frightened and freaked out, now feeling better, and energized. Similarities between coronavirus and climate are very related. I am really pissed off by Cuomo. I have moved from paralysis to being ready to take action. Terrifying time, terrifying time; as an Asian American I feel that I have a target on my back. Terrifying time. As an artist I know how to be with myself; but I am cut off from my loved ones; my partner, my mother. The hardest part is imagining the future. How to conceptualize the future we want in a context when I can't imagine the future at all. Forcing myself to stay close to the things that are important; on the other hand, not creating an illusion, but in reality. I haven't been in the meetings; knowing what was happening in Italy and what was going to happen here was terrifying. In KY there are 100 cases, and people are still far from understanding this; I get it. I make COVID videos (for a group). Husband works for public defenders, and people are being called to court. I have fantasies that people will think anew about how the world can be, and then yesterday happened ((when trump announced we should get the economy going and return to work)) and it really shook things up.

ERT

Bail reform

Wrolf: after TPF canceled, we did not know when we would meet again, so Actions brought a lot to us.

1) Bail reform petition:

Livvie: The budget is coming up this week, time to hurry and put on pressure. We decided against a call. Legislators not picking up messages. Email to Gov Cuomo and Speaker Heastie, FB action, and another. Goal: get people out of jails, no arrests for minor offences; release people from jail for infirmity and age. Bail reform was part of that larger package.

RaR voted yes to signing this petition

2) 5 principles: 1) health is the top priority, 2) economic relief to the people, 3) pay the direct health workers, 4) ??? 5) Protect democracy

RaR voted yes to signing this petition

3) Trump Lies People Die action. It got a lot of coverage on social media,

RaR voted in favor of this action.

4) DiBlasio press conference: release people from jails

Proposal to release 2000 people from NYC jails: technical violations; parole with open case, shouldn't be locked up. DeBlasio has released 70 of 2000. We spoke to someone age 57 with pacemaker and asthma; showing symptoms consonant with Covid. He is waiting and getting no special treatment. Please send out an email to the Dept of Criminal Justice. We are part of the press conference

RaR voted in favor of this action.

Banner action

Rick: the picture was the action; the space was very empty. Martin videoed it and put it on twitter, Gabby did the stills; she is a professional photographer. It was meant to be a photo opp. Stu and Ray: We need to retweet and retweet over and over again.

Ray: Trending 200 an hour, now after action it is about 4000 an hour. I have been tweeting to celebrities; ideas to get people to post it in different ways.

Mary: I made an animation of Trump Lies People Die. She has created a gif, which you should be able to access from your phone.

Cricket Valley Court Case.

Sandy: Fracking gas case. This would bring fracked gas across the border to NY State. Led by Sane Energy. RaR participated. Goal was to shut it down for a full day: 29 people arrested who chained themselves to a tractor, blocked workers, climbed a tower and strung a banner. Latest court date was March 9. There has been some reasonable negotiation with the court. Initially: 50 hours of community service in Dutchess county. Climbers: 30 days in jail etc. Sentence for the 29 was reduced to 16 hours of Community Service in Dutchess County. Stay away from the manager of the plant. 4 climbers reduced 0 days in jail, on good behavior; no restraining order, there is parole.

In person rally was planned. But couldn't be held. Virtual rally was held.

New actions

Guilt matters etc.

Jamie: Message: Guilt Matters with R Stone, McConnell, Flynn, etc.

Since there are so few people around, we needed to have something planned. We need to not be caught without a message. We need feedback on the proposed action.

Stu: In a different time, Guilt matters resonates, but now Trump Lies resonates more. All that people are thinking of is Trump's lies. BC: It would be hard to use guilt matters about all kinds of guilt dilutes the message. Jamie: trump is guilty, and McConnell is guilty: disregard for norms. Cherie: hard to break through because of the panic that people are in. Jamie we will go back to the drawing board. How about something about that your guilt is unpardonable. Elke: maybe a positive message about protecting the justice system, something positive while people are so freaked out. Joan: trump looks really bad. Jamie: Action Committee is going to have a Zoom meeting tomorrow night. Contact Jamie if you are interested in joining us. Kellen: could one print out signs and photograph them for social media?

Elections:

Livvie: Save bail reform and Save Lives.

Eve: We are doing some postcarding stuff. There is a difference of opinion about various issues. Hoping to do voter registration in PA, Wisconsin. Texting to get people to fill out the census. We have to get people to sign up. We will be meeting virtually once a week.

Trump Lies People Die: stickers

Jonathan Walker and Mary discussed the stickers Mary made from the banner. "Mary did a great job." Discussed specifics.

- There will be another banner action on Thursday.
- Mary: People could do it nationwide. Set it up on a standard Avery sticker label and invite people to print it out. It is a great idea to generate and disseminate this stuff as much as possible.
- Jackie Orr: Have an image and put in their windows in places that are locked down.
- Jon: as much material as we agree upon, the better. Maybe use a template like Laurie Arbeiter's. in this period of lockdown.
- Cost? Reasonable.

RaR voted to pass the motion to make the stickers and maybe signs for people to put in windows, or on Avery labels.

- Reach out to Mary personally who can send stuff out. me@maryhawkins.com
- Jon can work with Mary on this, and if possible he can bike stuff around.

Finance

- Eve: Next meeting on the 14th
- We don't have a report from Rob this week; we need to get that before the next meeting.
- Joan: I back Susan Lee up, and go to the mailbox, and can pick up anything, as needed.

IDEAS

Rick: We talked about a **projector** a long time ago; could be done from a car and creates an image that gets spread around. This is an oppty to spend some of the money in a way that may be important

Elka: **NYC against Coronavirus.** Maybe we can access the local neighborhoods and the local networks; exchange help and what is being done locally.

Andy: I have shared bitly NYC united against coronavirus: mutual aid projects. Anyone who wants to help. Refer people to "resources" to find people who might be able to help them. We are trying to expand the political impact: detention, access to medication, housing issues. We want to know more of what is going on. Feel free to reach out.

Wroff and Mary: Put together a Laurie Arbeiter style Trump Lies People Die: should we put RaR logo on that?

The motion passed to put the RaR Logo on.

Eve will post a link to the donation page into chat: we are paying for Elizabeth, and Actions, Zoom account is being donated to us.

Wind up:

Mark Hannay:

- Cuomo has become a Rockstar in contrast to the horrible leadership at the federal level. He has been exercising good leadership, especially since we are at the center of the pandemic.
- The NY budget is being jumped forward behind closed doors. He is linking unrelated issues like bail reform.
- Idea is that the legislature will leave, not clear when they will return.
- Governor: 2.5 billion cuts on Medicaid as part of his redesign plan. The legislature is reluctant to take him on publicly because of his popularity. Unwilling to say, "You cannot approve these cuts during a pandemic."
- Complicating factor at the federal level: second of two covid response bills, now the third. There will be much more Medicaid money allocated to the states. Strings: no state can change its Medicaid policy as a result. Cuomo is furious. NY could stand to get 6 to 8 billion. Cuomo has been pushing on Schumer very hard.
- Action: Call your representatives: Reject the cuts to Medicaid

Non Rise and Resist

Ray: If you are home alone, and want to adopt a dog and a cat, think about it. Go get an animal out of a shelter. Bring them to the zoom meetings.

The New Sanctuary coalition is working digitally. Legal clinic every weds. Message Maria Gambale on FB for information.

Safe behavior:

- Do as little as possible outside.
- You can transmit when you are asymptomatic
- Mark H: 6 foot distance, passing people on the street is not thought to be a danger.
- Stu: this is a public health disaster. 80K is 1% of the population. I try to keep a balance. Highly contagious. Every gesture counts.
- Think about the public perception when we plan our actions.
- Many people are not mindful. Maybe wear a teeshirt with a sign: "give me space."

RISE AND RESIST