

## Rise and Resist General Meeting - Zoom Edition – 03.02.21

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### 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:** Maryellen

### GOOD NEWS

Johnson and Johnson vaccine approved, COVID relief bill passes House (but \$15/hr. min wage scrapped)

Robert: **RAR included in a 5-minute video** showing all the actions around the country to celebrate the Nuclear Ban Treaty entering into force. RAR actions are represented.

<https://vimeo.com/515883787>

Mark H.: **President Biden's support for workers** trying to organize at Amazon. Hopefully this trend will continue nationally. Amazon is one of the companies that has profited during COVID and is fiercely anti-union.

### REPORT BACKS

#### 2/24 Vaccinate and Decarcerate at Cuomo's Office

Donna: The action was co-sponsored with CCA. There was a press conference, and a letter was delivered to Cuomo's office. RAR had a substantial presence with approximately 12 people (there were approximately 20 people in total). The speakers included Marvin Mayfield, staff of CCA, RAPP members, and mostly formerly incarcerated people – all spoke with passion. Carmen De La Rosa spoke from afar, online.

It was good to drive more attention to the spread of the virus in conjugate settings. It was great that RAR made a good connection to CCA.

## **2/25 The Show Can't Go On - Tax The Rich/Invest In Our NY**

Livvie: [Showed a video, sponsored by Music Workers Alliance.] The action was a lot of fun, and there were a lot of RAR people in attendance. The focus was on the arts, culture, and entertainment. Tomorrow night [Wednesday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>] there will be a Zoom meeting, for empowering and activating people in the arts <https://www.mobilize.us/indivisibleharlem/event/375777>. There will be an action during the Zoom meeting (e.g., calls to Governor and state reps).

Much is still happening in RAR working on Tax the Rich activities. Close to 1k letters were sent. Now texting is starting - every evening. Sign up to text with Invest In Our NY at, [https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1jLq6qqfGRT6QD97lpWbTFi0YAhoeXrdk11f4c9Z1bJI/viewform?edit\\_requested=true](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1jLq6qqfGRT6QD97lpWbTFi0YAhoeXrdk11f4c9Z1bJI/viewform?edit_requested=true) – occurs during the evenings.

Sandy: Was a wonderful action, and realized how much singing and dancing have been missed. In awe of the wonderful and positive spirit people brought to this action. Great action.

## **2/25 Immigration Vigil at Staten Island Ferry terminal**

Jamie: **Brought new banners** (“No Detentions No Deportation”; “Path for Citizenship for All”; and “Abolish ICE”), and posters. Leon and Kellen distributed a couple hundred leaflets to people leaving the ferry terminal. The “Path to Citizenship for All” banner might be too “bland” but it pissed off Trump supporters more than the other banners. Some of their comments included “Build the Wall!”, “We don’t want them here!”

There were a lot of positive comments. And many immigrants took pictures and gave thumbs-up for RAR being there. It was effective. Tomorrow night [Wednesday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>], at Actions meeting there will be a discussion about what else has to be done and whether adjustments for the visual aspect should be made. But messaging was good.

Ray: Late-daylight was beautiful to be there. It was cold, but when the sun moved around it illuminated everything. Was a lovely experience. There were disgruntled people, but for the most part people were supportive. A man who was in the plaza joined the action – that always seems to happen at the Ferry Terminal [Manhattan side]. It’s very rewarding when someone who doesn’t do something with RAR, decides to spend an hour with an action. There were 15 people at the action.

Jenny: Thanks to the full moon that was three dimensional, and the lighting was beautiful. It was a wonderful experience, yet so awful that we’re there because of the immigration issue.

Note: People holding the “Abolish ICE” banner stood on top of a large mound of snow; many Spanish speaking people at the Ferry terminal so it was good to have a bilingual flier.

Stu: Grumbling people about the “Pathway to Citizenship” banner weren’t all necessarily Trumpists. That will be the most important thing to make clear. There are a lot of people who differentiate between parents being immigrants, and people who arrive illegally.

Kellen: Good interaction with someone getting their Green Card in the past year and how difficult that process was. Nice to talk with people and explain RAR’s mission and what we believe in.

## **2/26 Say Their Names - 4:30PM Fridays at 96th-Broadway**

Jenny: It was good to be out again, after weeks of bad weather. "You speak my name and I will live forever" is an African proverb and felt so relevant that day. The "white supremacy is terrorism" phrase is "in" these days and was effective as a banner. People were thrilled seeing it as a way to express what they're feeling inside themselves. There were new people who joined the action. One man could not stay and then returned with hot chocolates for everyone. Another new person stayed the whole time and read two columns (of names).

Will probably be there again this Friday (weather looks good). And will probably change the time to 5pm sometime in the future, since the light is getting longer in the day.

## **2/27 Rally to Rise Up Against Asian Hate**

Alvin: Not a RAR action, but it was good to be there. This is a serious situation, and always has been. Hate crime incidents against Asians this past year is up 85%. The action took place in Foley Square. Last Thursday night [days before the action] an Asian man was stabbed in the back because the perpetrator didn't like the way the victim was looking at him.

Many State and City leaders attended the action. Asian American Federation organized the action. The Speakers were very powerful. Different generations attended.

Now need to pressure representatives to put resources to support the community (e.g., Hate Crimes Unit). Maybe RAR can get involved with advocacy (e.g., marshals) at future actions. There's a lot of fear, but there's more strength and community now.

Alvin has a friend at the Asian American Federation now and will work together to build a coalition.

Jonathan: Looked like an amazing action. Let's (RAR) connect more to this.

## **3/1 Cuomo's Cuts Kill - Tax The Rich/Invest In Our NY**

Mark H.: End special tax breaks to large corporations over the last three decades. This week's theme is Public Healthcare. ACT UP spearheaded the action, and approx. 15 RAR members attended. Vogel NY was there as well.

During the speaker part of the event, people put on gloves and then put their hands in red paint and then put their hands all over the [prop] large poster of Cuomo's book cover. Very good graphics. They used their historic spiral which first represented Reagan, George H. Bush, and now Cuomo.

Other actions have been happening this week about healthcare. For example, at 250 Broadway tomorrow [Wednesday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>] at 10 am across from City Hall. Encouraging people to get involved in Invest NY.

There are two weeks left to get the two Bills into the legislature, and then make sure they get into the three-way negotiation process. There are phone banking efforts based on the relationship model (e.g., "Friend Banking"). This effort helps get people in motion about this issue.

- Ann Rubin: **DSA invited RAR members to join them friendbanking**, and has the action details if people are interested. Email Ann at, [aerubin13@gmail.com](mailto:aerubin13@gmail.com).

## **Stop The Money Pipeline**

Stu: Welcomed a new AIG President at his office and gave him cupcakes, post-its, etc. The note included a message that “we’ll be back.”

## **UPCOMING ACTIONS**

### **Climate Action - Wednesday 3/3 2PM at Black Rock 45 E51 St. - Stop Fueling Climate Chaos**

Livvie: This action has been planned for a while. It will last approx. 90 minutes. Many organizations that RAR has coalitioned with for years will be there including Rev. Billy and Stop Shopping Choir. Everyone is encouraged to attend. RAR’s “Stop Investing in Climate Crisis” banner will be there.

Cherie: Extinction Rebellion, Sunrise, and other organizations will be there. - Note: Facebook event page, <https://fb.me/e/1cOIM4HOx>

### **Excluded and Essential Workers action, Friday 3/5 morning at 9:30 am**

Ann: Connected with Invest in Our NY. The “ask” from RAR is for marshals. The message is Tax the Rich, and “Labor saves lives and it’s time for the NYS legislature to support ours.” Many types of workers will be in attendance.

**International Women’s Day 3/7 1PM Washington Sq. Park** (Pass The ERA/Women Lead The Way) - Maryellen: March will begin with Fogu Auzl Brazilian drummers, followed by three speakers (including NYS AG Letitia James). The march will stop at the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory where a union rep will make a brief speech to honor the workers who were affected by the tragedy. Then continue to Union Square where a couple of additional speakers will wrap up the action (including Poet Pamela Sneed). Cotton masks with “E.R.A.” on the front will be distributed (but priority will be given to people who volunteer to marshal). There will also be a few face shields available for distribution.

Nine action organizers will wear sashes with different demands (e.g., Title IX, Job Security, Equal Pay, Parental Childcare, etc.) and fliers with more information regarding each demand will be distributed. (QR Codes will be added to help maintain social distancing, etc.)

**Request for \$400 was approved.**

### **Free the Vax, outside Pfizer Pharmaceutical World Head (42nd St. and 4th Ave), Thursday 3/11 at 12:00 pm**

Mark H.: Various organizations planning this action (e.g., NY Doctor’s coalition, Right to Healthcare, RAR, People’s Action). World Trade organization beginning to talk about international property rights and patents in light of the pandemic. The themes are that there is a need to take the patents away from the drug manufacturers who developed them for COVID – which was funded by U.S. taxpayers (e.g., research and development), and ensure there is a hand-off to other companies to produce the vaccine en masse across the globe. None of us will be free from this pandemic until all of us are free from the pandemic (i.e., Free the Vaccine).

Other cities will be participating in this action: Boston, NYC, Washington DC, Chicago,

Philadelphia. London, South Africa, Berlin. It will be a global day of action calling on all political leaders to step forward. This pandemic is an unusual situation that has caused a global economic problem, and we can't do business as usual with big pharma.

Have to vaccinate everyone as soon as possible – and we need the politicians to make this happen.

NY's demands will be towards the new Biden administration to recognize this is pandemic and the patent issue is an unusual circumstance and it's time for the U.S. to take the lead in this endeavor.

Ask is for co-sponsorship, and marshals. No risk of arrest. Decision: Co-sponsorship passed with one abstention

### **Immigration Vigils - when/where/timing future actions**

Jamie: Will be discussed during Actions tomorrow [Wednesday/March 3<sup>rd</sup>] and will update the floor at a future meeting.

**Invest in NY Tax the Rich, Letter Campaign** (Start at GCT - Park Ave. South Overpass) 1pm – 2pm - Jonathan: All RAR groups are working with this (e.g., Actions, Climate, Elevator Working Group). This is for social media and other platforms. Leverage the light up letters and take them around iconic areas in NYC for photographs, demonstrating that NYers agree to Tax the Rich. Photographs will be distributed in social media, turned into memes, etc.

Will very likely do more in the future, at other iconic places.

Livvie: This is a state-wide campaign. Pictures will also be taken against a blank wall and then photoshopped into other iconic areas (e.g., Syracuse and Rochester)

### **Elections/Filibuster call relay report back discussion**

Sandy: Landscape for voters' rights is getting more dire per day. More than 250 bills in state legislatures to overturn voters' rights. HR1 is a powerful bill (the People's Bill). Need to end the Filibuster. There was a call relay yesterday [Monday, March 1<sup>st</sup>] to Chuck Schumer with 90 time slots and nearly all were taken. Everyone left voicemails at the three office locations (e.g., NYC, Albany, and DC). Really have to stay on top of this. HR1 S1 is going to die in the Senate. Have to keep the pressure on to end the Filibuster!

### **Elevator Actions - Virtual Action against Cuomo, Movie night 3/18@ 6PM (90 minutes)**

Jennifer: Signed another letter to stop the lockbox from being opened. This is old legislation to stop Cuomo from raiding MTA funds – which he's been taking money from the fund/lockbox. Transit Justice and Riders' Alliance also signed.

Request for sponsorship of a virtual town hall and movie night. There will be two short documentaries about subway inaccessibility. Between the two movies there will be a talk. This is an informational entertaining evening to provide education about accessibility.

Good news: The phrase "People with disabilities" has been added throughout the Invest in Our NY website.

**Decision: Co-sponsorship passed.**

Link to donate to RAR: <https://www.riseandresist.org/donate>

### **Non-Rise and Resist announcements**

Katrina: Decision was made during a Coalition for the Homeless meeting to change messaging to City Councils and other representatives, from “you’re doing a terrible job” to “you can do a better job.” This should help obtain more funding.

Trying to get people who have a history, currently in or trying to get into supportive housing to be willing to offer op-eds with the media or share their stories. Topics include, if they were able to get supportive housing or if they were turned away throughout NYS, NYC (and other cities). Also, coalition with Urban Justice.

<https://www.voterve.net/CFTH/Campaigns/80434/Respond>

**Jay: Reclaim Pride March will be in-person and on June 27<sup>th</sup>.** Reclaim Pride is reaching out to the Queer community with an input form asking a couple questions about issues facing broader communities that should be addressed during the march. Survey link, <https://reclaimpridenyc.org/2021-community-input-form>

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