

Rise and Resist General Meeting - Zoom Edition - 8.4.2020

Rise and Resist Contact Information

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

SHARING OF GOOD NEWS

Jamie: **DHS backed down in Portland.** An important victory for the movement.

Jamie: **Cyrus Vance announced the investigation of Trump** and Trump Co for bank fraud and insurance fraud, which means they need to see all the tax returns!!

Jenny: There is talk of fascism in the news and in the media and there is a real attempt to shed some light on what is really going on and the concerns about what is ahead. The labeling of things as they are happening in the moment is really important.

ACTION REPORT BACKS

Manhattan Bridge COVID Behind Bars / Immigration Demo: Last Thursday we brought our Immigration Vigils back with a message of "Covid Behind Bars = Death." We arranged ourselves on the Manhattan side of the entrance to the bridge, which is a beautiful backdrop for photos. There were 3 Banners - Covid Behind Bars = Death; Abolish ICE; and US Immigration Policy is a Crime. This was a socially distant, masked action, and the plaza provided plenty of room to spread out. It got a lot of positive responses, it was great to interact with people. The visibility for the banners was incredible, you could see them from several blocks away because of the layout of the space. However, some of the hand-held signs may have been difficult to understand from cars and there weren't any pedestrians. **The Covid Behind Bars group**

meets 6:30 Thursday to discuss the next action. Email Jody at jodyq@me.com to get the Zoom link.

Dennis (via chat): Perhaps the other bridges would be great too. Both Williamsburg bridge and Brooklyn have more foot traffic.

Vivian: We should have some **signs in Spanish**. The floor was supportive of this idea.

Statue of Liberty Banner Photo Shoot: We went out with “Abolish ICE” and “Trump Lies People” Die banners to take long-lens photos with the Statue in the background. Please continue to share these photos and to Tweet them to people in the administration.

96th & Broadway Reading of Names: These are continuing every week at 5:00 on Fridays. We now have half-a-dozen photographs to hold up along with our signs. This location is great for both vehicular traffic and pedestrians, so it has good energy. We had to move to legal sized paper to hold the list of names. We give copies to taxi drivers and others who would like one. Please join on Fridays at 5:00. If it is raining at 4:30, the vigils will resume the next Friday. There’s no shade on the median, so please bring a hat and water.

No Unsafe Schools March: Rise and Resist endorsed the action and helped to marshal. It was a large, high-energy action, lots of creativity.

WORKING & ACTION GROUP UPDATES

Elections Group

Livvie: Today was the day all of the ballots were to have been counted, but the BOE lost a lawsuit and now has to count all of the mail-in ballots that weren’t postmarked because they were in postage-paid envelopes. So only provisional results can be given tonight. This sets precedent for the November 3 election.

NYS Congress met last week and passed a bundle of 7 bills directed at making the November 3rd election work more smoothly. But Cuomo hasn’t signed them yet. Call and ask that he sign this bundle of bills - people who answer the phone will know what you’re talking about.

The Budget Justice bill that would equalize the power the Governor and Congress share in creating the budget was not brought to a vote.

Budget Justice activist groups are still sounding the drum beat reminding politicians that we need Cuomo to stop protecting the 118 NY billionaires and tax the rich. It's become clear that 1/3 of the billionaires have donated to Cuomo's campaigns, so we can't count on him without huge public pressure. And there's no way McConnell will have the US Senate bail us out.

Decarceration Group

Donna: This group was formed to educate ourselves on issues of decarceration. They are working to schedule a teach-in with RAPP (Release Aging People in Prison) that will be open to all of Rise and Resist. They are also forming a study group. They've started with Are Prisons Obsolete by Angela Davis. They are becoming acquainted with other groups working on decarceration (RAPP, JLUSA, etc.) by attending their meetings and actions. If you're interested in joining this group, please contact Sarah Gold at sarahgold97@gmail.com to be added to the list.

Mary: Would this teach-in with RAPP be something we can record so people can watch later?

Donna: We can explore doing that.

Call for Facilitation Help

Jamie: Our current Zoom meeting method is to have 2 facilitators, plus 1 person to do the screenshare and deal with the technical aspects and 1 note taker. We are looking for additional Screen Share people. The Screen Share/Tech person does not have to be a trained facilitator, anyone who wants to help and is comfortable with Zoom can do it. The more people who volunteer, the less often you will be called upon, so please sign up to help. Contact Jamie if you're interested in taking on any of the meeting tasks. bauwau2u@gmail.com

Finance Committee Update

Net Worth is \$21,100, a decrease of \$200 from last week. The Finance Committee meets Saturday at 10:00 AM.

UPCOMING ACTIONS

Beds Not Body Bags Alexandra: **August 14, 6:30pm (evening shift change) at Elmhurst Hospital**, there will be a banner, bodybags, and new posters showing the number of hospital beds per 1,000 people in Manhattan vs. Queens. 6.5 beds/1000 in Manhattan and 1.5/1000 in Queens. Take the E and F trains to Roosevelt Ave. Look for a Facebook event coming soon.

This will be the first in a series of actions calling out the inequities in hospital services throughout the boroughs.

NEW ACTIONS

Democracy Dies in a Police State Banner Action - Stu / Jamie: An action that will include the banner plus a series of photographs that show police violence at protests in cities around the country. The time and place is still TBD. This message is geared towards people who are left-leaning but not out in the streets, and even centrists.

- Comments from the floor: Donna: it would be good to have signs/messages to elaborate on what we mean by the banner. It seems a little abstract. We should make it clear that nobody is safe in a police state. Stu: we could always add signs, and people can bring hand-written signs. Jenny: "Democracy is Dead in a Police State" moves a little bit outside the usual box and is accurate. Sandy: Police are not the only thing that kills a democracy. We might already be in an oligarchy. "Nobody is safe in a police state" more clearly focuses on the police part. Mike D: it's always good to have a positive message to counter the negative. We don't want to say Democracy's Dead because people are already too cynical about voting. Jennifer: we should avoid saying "nobody's safe in a police state" because at the end of the day, white people would be relatively safe. Jim: there are good arguments that America's not a democracy. If our audience is left-leaning, these are people who saw Portland and heard Trump talk about delaying the election and are paying more attention to the state of our democracy. Judith: would prefer a more positive message. "Vote Out the Police State". Livvie: the proposed banner is a really strong message, a wake-up call. A more active message could be to Vote. Robert: the ideal of democracy running up against this police state resonates. Jim: "Democracy or Police State?" Jackie G: "Democracy or Tyranny." Sandy: Democracy is most in danger at the national level, we could focus on uplifting democracy at local level. Stu: why does this have to be positive? The message is that these images are not just police brutality, they are a threat to democracy. Ken: this group was formed after the election because we were so afraid of what would happen and it's happening. Silence=Death works because it's urgent. We don't need to sugar-coat it because this is urgent, the word Death works. Susan: this is a very strong statement, that she supports.
- Straw Poll: "Democracy Dies in a Police State" - Comfortable/Uncomfortable with this as a message from Rise and Resist. Majority voted they were comfortable with this message.
- **Vote: A) approval for a banner action - passed B) a request for \$500 to print the banner plus 8-10 large, mounted photos to accompany it. - passed**

Trump in Town

Jamie: **Trump will be Southampton on August 8**, and in Deal, NJ on the 9th. Likely staying in Bedminster, and setting foot in NYC. If he does, we will probably organize something on the fly.

If we hear about actions in Southampton or in NJ, we will let the group know. If you hear anything, contact Jamie. bauwau2u@gmail.com

NYPD Response to Protests

Heather: Last Thursday a coalition of Black-led activist groups called for a rally and march in response to the kidnapping of a protester off the street on Tuesday. The rally was at Foley Square. As the rally progressed, the police built up a larger and larger presence between Foley Square and City Hall, eventually barricading Centre Street. The message was clear that we are not allowed near City Hall these days. During the march and a vigil at One-P-P (outside the barricades at Bowery & Worth), police actions were mostly posturing, with a caravan of about a dozen police vans driving by with their lights flashing. The NYPD put on a show, but kept their distance from the protest.

Mary: Witnessed an encounter between a civilian and the cops in which the civilian was very upset by the graffiti at City Hall. The city is likely hearing these complaints and taking the optics of the City Hall-area graffiti seriously.

NON RISE AND RESIST EVENTS

The March for the Dead and the Living: Ken: **Friday, August 21, 6:00pm.** Save the date.

This will be a coalition-led event that's been called by Martin Quinn, a RaR'er who has seen the effects of COVID-19 in his family. There will be a Candlelight March across the Brooklyn Bridge, to Wall Street, through to Foley Square, and past the Tombs. Wear white and bring candles and names. Organizers are encouraging this to go nationwide so that photos and video are out to the media before the RNC Convention gets underway.

Comments from the Floor -- Jenny: Say their Names is working on signing people up to read off names 40 at a time. Maybe we could do this here. Ken: this is all-hands on deck, everyone will have a role.

The Anti-Eviction Mapping Project

Jim: He has been working with this group mapping the effects of the economic crisis on housing. They have a map where they're tracking different eviction protections and housing justice actions so people can see what exists where they live. <https://covid19.antievictionmap.com/>

Housing Connects' New Website

Katrina: there's a new website called **Housing Connects 2** that people should know about and those of us who work with other activist groups should share the news. There are new eligibility requirements for projects to aid seniors and a lot of people don't know that they would be eligible for the new programs. Specifically, there are new guidelines for the Senior Citizen Rent Increase Exemption (SCRIE) program and Disability Rent Increase Exemption (DRIE) program.

You can contact Council Member Vanessa L. Gibson's office by phone at 718-588-7500 or at District16bronx@council.nyc.gov You can reach out to Council Member Mark Levine's office in Northern Manhattan at 212-928-6814 or district7@council.nyc.gov If you are a tenant facing a case in housing court, you can get assistance from Housing Court Answers 212-962-4795 www.nyc.gov/housingconnect, www.nyc.gov/housing-ambassadors

"Biden Say No to Blackrock"

Livvie: **Movement for a Green New Deal** has an action on **August 11 at 12:30pm** at the Blackrock Headquarters, E 51st St. between Park and Madison. The message is "Biden Say No to Blackrock" Blackrock is the top investor in fossil fuels and #1 in driving climate change. They're angling to get 2 of their bigwigs into slots in the Biden administration. This will be a photo op action, it should only be about half an hour.

Divestment from Nuclear Armaments

Robert: Thursday is the **75th Anniversary of the bombing of Hiroshima**. At 10:30 there will be a press conference in Foley Square to pressure the City Council to pass a Divestment from Nuclear Armaments resolution that is before them. Some people in RaR are participating. It will be a socially-distant action, so we have enough people.

Millionaire Tax Phone / Tweet Storm

Miriam: VOCAL has put out a phone / tweet action to demand a **millionaire tax**. Follow VocalNYC for more: <https://p2a.co/WKc8q2i>

FemmeZ.us

Mary Hawkins (via chat): This week, I'm working on [FemmeZ.us](https://femmez.us), a livestream of classes about gender and organizing that's meant for GenZ women/non-binary/trans folks. If you know a college kid who'd be interested, please pass it along. me@maryhawkins.com.

RISE AND RESIST