

## Rise and Resist General Meeting: 6.25.2019

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### Rise and Resist Contact Information

- Website: [www.riseandresist.org](http://www.riseandresist.org)
  - Email list signup <http://eepurl.com/cCzq1X>
  - Twitter: [www.twitter.com/RiseandResistNY](https://twitter.com/RiseandResistNY)
  - Facebook: [www.facebook.com/RiseandResistNYC/](https://www.facebook.com/RiseandResistNYC/)
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  - General email: [info@riseandresist.org](mailto:info@riseandresist.org)
  - Press email: [media@riseandresist.org](mailto:media@riseandresist.org)
  - Meetings: Every Tuesday at 7pm at the [People's Forum](#), 320 W 37th St, New York, NY 10018
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**Notes** - Alexandra, **Facilitators** - Cherie and Maryellen

**Welcome:** NYPD, Journalists, Get off your phone, Encourage to speak – raise your hand and give Name & Pronouns, Metro Cards

**Everyone says their name**

### **REPORT BACKS**

#### **Impeach at the Oculus**

Rick and Jamie: People were very positive who witnessed the impeach action at the Oculus; One heckler whacked the banner and ran; very startling.

**Next action 7/11 location TBD**

#### **Extinction Rebellion action; in front of the N Y Times building**

Donna and Rick: In front of the New York Times building

77 people arrested

Traffic was stopped for some time

Bystanders were very supportive

Very long banner unfurled; inspiring, a lot of young people;

Rick: Guys rappelled down the building with the banner; dropped the banner too low and it was snatched. Another group spent 45 minutes trying to drop the banner; outsiders said that the demo was not clear. The ER logo does not say enough. These comments are not intended to criticize, but to consider what future RaR actions might draw from these experiences.

All articles gave the NYT the last word.

#### **City Hall Climate Emergency action**

Cherie: A small group stood in support

## **Bay Ridge counter protest to support Ilhan Omar**

Protestors had 25; we, counter protestors, had 75;

Dov Haykin is challenging Max Rose, and was stirring up the protesters.

## **Elections Committee/Climate Actions – Albany wrap-up**

Claire: Assembly wrapped up last week

Elections group came together two years ago; their work seemed totally quixotic. Claire discussed the IDC, Independent Democratic Caucus.

Gradually IDC was perceived more widely. Postcards sent out widely. Collaboration with True Blue to select a single progressive challenger to oppose IDC incumbent

6 of 8 IDC members were voted out.

Other districts flipped from red to blue; a true Democratic majority emerged in the State Senate.

Way beyond activists' dreams.

- Statewide rent laws were due to expire, new laws passed.
- Climate Protection Act passed
- Reproductive Health Act
- Congestion pricing
- Defendants will not be assessed bail, and there are stronger time limits to ensure speedy trial;
- Stronger LGBTQ: Genda, conversion therapy outlawed
- Farmwork reforms
- Early voting now possible
- State and Federal primaries
- Stronger gun control laws
- Easier to prosecute child sex abuse
- LLC campaign finance reform
- Penalty for mj possession was reduced
- NOT DONE:
  - Campaign reform commission still has not been formed
  - MJ not legalized
  - Single payer healthcare not passed
  - Climate change needs to be strengthened.
  - Solitary confinement not passed
  - Double jeopardy (relating to Trump) has not been signed;
- The takeaway: Elections really, really matter, and they require hard work; the power of the grassroots, not the Democratic Party

## **Environmental Action Group**

Sandy:

- The Climate bill was significantly weakened
  - Funds to low income families reduced
  - Labor protections weakened
  - Low income communities redefined to include middle income communities
- Request to send out an email to convene a brainstorming meeting under Rise and Resist's name on July 22;
  - Sandy is planning to reach out to different activist communities; reach out to Leslie Kagan and other groups.

- o Brainstorming session
- **This request was approved by the RaR membership**
- Request: stickers (costing about \$300) and buttons that say “Climate Emergency”; Rise and Resist will be on the back of the buttons.
- **This request was approved by the RaR membership**

### **Facilitation announcements**

\*Collect Rent

\*If you have a complaint about the People’s Forum, please come to the Facilitators, who will convey concerns rather than having multiple people complain.

\*July tasks list was circulated

### **Open Discussion to talk about reactions to current Immigration crisis**

Jamie: the news about the conditions that children are living in, the threat of increased attacks and persecution by Trump, led to much upset in the RaR membership. This is an invitation to talk.

Diane: This is a key moment; we need to act on it.

Betsy: Who organized the rush to the airport, and are we working with that coalition? Liz: The airport action was led by Make the Road NY and Legal Aid NYC.

Jamie: we have connections with New Sanctuary and Immigration Coalition

Tim: Need for people to go accompany people on trial; legal orgs say don’t demonstrate; but this situation is a travesty

Paul: 300 children have been moved; shows that shining the light makes a difference; but 100 have just been moved back. The camps are now being called concentration camps

Marlene: Many busses went to Washington DC in the past. We should return to these trips.

Lawyers who saw the children and the conditions they were in reported to Salt Lake City Tribune. Why are Dems not going down en masse?

Mark: let’s brainstorm the ideal protest: After Iraq, 5<sup>th</sup> Ave was blocked; we cannot go on as normal; many people are very upset about no soap, children sleeping on concrete; think back to the Freedom Riders who went down south who travelled down south; great press. We should work in coalition to send busses in coalition going down to the concentration camps

Mike: we need strong action, civil disobedience. Let’s be aware that these are High Crimes and Misdemeanors. The kids are so dirty that one can’t get close to them. Target ICE here with civil disobedience. Spark more national moral outrage

Dann: How do we feel about using the word concentration camp?

Susan: Not a good idea, because it is perceived by some that we are fanning the flames in Jewish communities - the term is being used on their backs

Ray: Some employees are requesting not to build furniture that is being used in these camps. There is a groundswell.

Proposed actions: Jamie and Donna

- **Monday July 8 5:30PM Immigration vigil in Grand Central Station**
- Up to \$500 requested for photos and banners for these two actions
  - No raids, close camps, abolish ICE;
    - o Ideas: props; soap, mylar, lying down, photos of children, of the father and daughter lying face down in water, names of children who have died; portraits of children are available. Disguise them? Mexican guards are now working with US military;
    - o This action will not involve civil disobedience

- **Plans for non-FB Immigration demo “No Raids, Close The Camps, Abolish ICE”**
  - o Various locations being explored: Zack and Jamie
  - o Vague action: the 3 banners will be used;
  - o Two weeks from now
  - o Potential cost: under \$200 range
  - o Weds July 10 will be pre-action meeting to discuss
  - o A representative from Extinction Rebellion who was at the meeting indicated that ER is willing to support RaR
- **RaR voted in support of both actions.**
- **RaR voted to approve up to \$500 for materials discussed above.**
- Stu and Livvie want to use signs in front of the Hague with photos of the children in order to mobilize media action.
- **RaR voted in support to approve Stu and Livvie’s action as a Rise and Resist action in front of the Hague.**

## **UPCOMING**

**RAR contingent in Queer Liberation March (June 30) to meet at 9:00AM at “Jekyll and Hyde” south side of 7<sup>th</sup> Ave. near Barrow St. at 9 am**

- o Diane: This is an outreach opportunity for Rise and Resist; palm cards will be handed out.

## **Finance**

**\$155 collected tonight; \$14,200 in bank which is an increase of \$200 from last week**  
**Non Rise and Resist actions and announcements**

- o Heather: Wed afternoon July 3, we will choose a busy subway station: hand out bars of soap that have on them “no kids in cages.” “Call your congressman.” 500 bars of soap, and 500 stickers.
- o Stations near City Hall? Penn Station?
- o **RaR voted to endorse this action and the outlay of money.**

**Poster party for QLM: check with Dann**

**GAG: Post Traumatic Stress Disorder Day Thursday, June 27 at Grand Central 5:30 to 6:30.**

**Maryellen:** this annual event focuses on veterans who commit suicide; on average 20 per day; 70% by gun, much higher rates of gun suicides than in civilian population. Veterans are committing suicide in VA parking lots to protest conditions in VA’s.

- **RaR voted to endorse this actions**

September action planned by Mary Ellen; and she is asking for help.

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