

Rise and Resist General Meeting: 7.9.2019

Rise and Resist Contact Information

- Website: www.riseandresist.org
 - Email list signup <http://eepurl.com/cCzq1X>
 - Twitter: [www.twitter.com/RiseandResistNY](https://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 at the [People's Forum](#), 320 W 37th St, New York, NY 10018
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Notes - Elizabeth, **Facilitators** - Jamie and Alexandra

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

Soap Action, Penn Station, July 3rd - Initiated by Heather

Jamie - Mostly organized by Heather, we went to Penn Station on the evening of July 3rd, held signs about closing the camps and what has been happening to people. She made 500 hotel soap bars that said “No kids in cages” on them, which were handed out to people with leaflets. People were very hesitant to engage. Also: unfortunate, because PABT was closed due to an accident, so there were a ton of people coming down to Penn Station, so there was a lot of confusion about where to go. Only a few arguments with counter-protestors.

The idea was to get people to think about what it means to be in captivity, to think of something as simple as the freedom/ability to access soap.

Attendee: I found yesterday's demonstration - where people were very positive and saying “thank you” - is it possible that when people are given an object that they are resistant? I have rarely seen such negative passivity as that at that demonstration

George: It was Rush hour, and people were plowing away into Penn Station; there were fewer representatives of RAR, and folks in a very congested, narrow area. I think the soap was powerful and I saw people respond very positively.

Close-the-Camps, Grand Central Station, July 7th

Linda: I was there, and that's why I'm here - I thought the Grand Central - the way it was done - a circle, facing out - showing this kind of Unity - I thought people responded very positively - a lot of thumbs-up, a lot of people joining in. I thought it came off very well. I thought that it worked well, because it was also a silent event.

Virginia: The reading of the names of the kids - I knew it was going to happen, and it was still an absolute gut-punch in the best way. I suggest we keep doing that. I just thought about how young they were. Everybody was just stunned. I thought it was so powerful.

Alexandra: did anybody have any issues around escalation and de-escalation?

Jill: Just the - I mean, we have seen counter-protestors before, but there was something about the level of venom and hatred coming off these people, and they were very vehement. Thanks to Jamie for facilitating de-escalation.

Paul: I think the structure of the square - someone who was just standing on the sidelines - we made a little community right there - structure of a square, like a cell - and listening to the counter-protestors, and the things that were coming out of their heads were... were just insane. Concerns about the dangers of some of these counter-protestors, and thanks again to Jamie and Alexis for facilitating de-escalation.

Mel: I am a little annoyed by people who say "thank you" - I think if after two years if you have to say "Thank you" I think more, why say "thank you - when you could come here, and be a part of this.

Katrina: Three people that I didn't recognize that joined in the square kept brushing up against me in inappropriate places, and it was violating my safety zone. I ended up removing myself from the situation. I didn't want to engage the police, so just moved to get away, and I looked for people to support me in this - when she exited the space in the box, she had to work on de-escalating some issues that other people faced.

Mary: Next time someone is gross at a protest - Take a picture of them, so -

Alexis: I want to thank everybody who marshalled yesterday - it was a confusing space, because it was a four-sided space, and one of the things I realized was that there were times that people were getting shoulder-checked when there wasn't a marshall around, and be a little more flowing, and think about how we are marshalling different spaces. We may have another marshall training earlier this summer.

Jamie: There was one person in a pink tank top going through the outer crowd shoulder-checking people

Olivia: I will say, I was on the side facing the center/the big clock I had no idea that names were being read, but in the future, like if we could make that move around, or have a sound system or something.

Sheree: I think this is the first time we did a 4 sided demonstration, so there was a lot of new logistics to figure out - and as a marshall, I felt like we needed more marshalls because of the unique logistics of Grand Central. As a Marshall, I felt like I could have used more support. There was a lot of egging on and escalation going on among counter-protestors.

Mary: I haven't been able to go to most marches - what

Sheree: My opinion as someone who walked around it a lot from the outside, the banners are beautiful, and the images are powerful.

Susan: I think the visuals are important and what made people stop. And I just want to thank you all to use the expression "Close the Camps" - I just want to thank you, and not one person said anything negative about that.

George: I said this earlier, but the more body-size banners are way more effective visually -

I respectfully have a different opinion than you do - and I thought the big banners helped to define the group - but the big signs really gave definition to the whole thing and made it look vast.

Press wise - New York Post and NBC News were there

UPCOMING ACTIONS

Impeach Trump Action, Trump Tower, July 11th

We have been doing a series of Impeach actions

Mary Hawkins has kindly made us new graphics and among the things we are going to take out with us on Thursday are a 25' Long "Impeach Trump" Banner, and a bunch of signs for people who work in Trump Tower who have been subpoenaed by Nadler who are not cooperating with the house - and we have pictures of them and we name them.

In addition to that, we are going to be post-carding instead of flyering - It is much easier to hand out postcards instead of fliers - and when you hand them out face-up, people think you are handing up swag, instead of fliers. They get a "little gift" from us - which they then can re-display at home, in their cubicles.

We also have posters with the same graphic and stickers, with the same design designed by Mary Hawkins

Alexis: Is this going to be a silent vigil Jamie?

Jamie: No - Impeach is a mix of chanting, as well as standing directly in front of Trump tower, and some moving picket. Due to the narrow sidewalk in front of Trump Tower, we sometimes have a narrow picket.

This Thursday, July 11th, Trump Tower, 5:30 pm, 56th Street and 5th Avenue

Show of hands for people who can attend

This is not a civil disobedience action

Mike - Speaking on an action -

Thursday, July 11th, between 7:30 and 8:00 am

Bella Abzug park, 35th St. across from the Javits Center

Step off from the park at about 8:20 and head towards the convention center

It is all supposed to end by 10:00 am

Rise + Resist has previously endorsed this series of actions.

The action is to protest Amazon Web Services, as they are providing facial-recognition software to Border Patrol and ICE. Amazon is also working with Palantir (Trump friend) - and part of the National Security State. As "Make the Road" States it - it is Amazon versus Immigrants. 23,000 members in NYC, Long Island, Westchester Area; 2 types of programs - - provides immigrants, refugees and latinx communities legal services and job assistance, and they also organize immigration justice support protests.

This protest is an opportunity for us to build multi-issue organizing and intersectionality, and to connect with communities of color.

This will involve a rally, there will be some direct action, and confrontations.

George: And the use of Facial recognition technology in Detroit

The primary concern is about how this relates to the creation of a wider police state, and to advise folks who are engaging with Amazon Web Services about the fact that their funds are supporting.

Vague Action

Facilitation announcements and other business,

Alexandra

We pay \$62.50 for Rise & Resist space

Stipend for ASL interpretation

And any \$ in addition goes into our coffers and helps pay for actions, swag, posters, banners and things.

If you have a complaint - we had a time a few weeks ago when it was incredibly hot in here, and so everyone went upstairs and complained to the front desk - - if there are complaints, please bring it

Tasks - there are a few tasks for the next few meetings - July 16th, 23rd, and 30th - Slides, Greeters, and Notes

Jamie - I have an actions question - everybody knows the big gray Rise + Resist banner we have? Is it in your apartment?

Mary - Speaking of Missing Banners - I would love to wrangle back the rainbow Rise + Resist banner - the one that Gilbert

Gilbert baker was the maker of the Rainbow flags, he passed away in California, so Cleve Jones, another LGBTQ activist on the west coast has claimed it

Storage unit?

Climate Action Group

Quick report back -Cherie - we wanted to gather a bunch of different climate groups in the city - climate community leadership and protection act - - CCLPA - this act needs to be pushed further

We have moved ahead and reached out to other groups and are going forward with a convening of multiple climate groups on July 22nd.

For new people, too, we do have a Climate Action Group within Rise + Resist - the Climate Group meets on Mondays, and because it's summer, the next major meeting of the Climate Action Group will be on July 29th. We can put you on the email list. What we are going to be working on this summer, is we are going to be working on an action for the UN Climate Summit happening in September - there should be a lot of actions around the UN Climate Summit, and we are looking to make it a powerful statement. We are looking at putting together an action centered on Wall Street. We are going to go to Wall Street - we are going to focus our attention on the people who finance climate denial. We would like you to come and join us and help us plan a massive action, including civil disobedience on Wall Street at the time of the Climate Summit (Fall 2019)

Climate Action Group usually meets at one of the members' houses in the West Village.

#Swag: Paul has with him Climate Action Stickers - they say Climate emergency - - and people can take a few, and put them up on Subway posters, or wherever it seems appropriate -

UPCOMING ACTIONS

Rise and Resist Picnic on July 27th Alexis - Thanks to Diane Lent, who is not here tonight, but who has organized us, and thanks to George, we are going to be having a Rise & Resist Picnic on July 27th, which is a Saturday - If you don't have plans on that weekend. How many people think they might be able to join us - - what we are looking for is for you to bring a picnic blanket/something to sit on. People to bring some food to share (food for 10-15 people)

Next week I will get more down into the weeds about cups and plates and things

It is on July 27th

At the Pond - in Central Park - Enter Central Park by Central Park West and 100th Street.

10:00 am - 3:00 pm

Main issue: it's a HARD STOP. Because of a wedding party.

So, please come between 11:00 am and 2:00 pm.

There'll be food, people to hang out with

Jamie: You guys all manage to find demonstrations. You can find a party.

Jennifer - **Elevator Action Group** - Disability Rights arm of Rise + Resist. Our mission is to make the NY Subway system accessible. We are going to begin -

Wednesday, July 10th - **Meeting at the LGBTQ Center from 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm**; Jennifer will put her email on the board.

Sunday, July 14th: Disability Pride - R + R Contingent will march in the Disability Pride Parade - We will hand out postcards addressing Governor Cuomo that elevators are for everyone - for folks to send to Governor Cuomo. They are coordinating a meeting point. The March convenes at 10:00 am, and begins at 11:00 am in Madison Square Park. Disability Pride convenes in Madison Square Park, and marches down to Union Square Park.

Wednesday, July 17th: Rider's Alliance - are hosting a Rally to push for Congestion pricing to become a reality. One key request is to discuss elevators in the subways, and that whatever funds are allocated in the upcoming budget for the MTA go to making subways more accessible.

Wednesday July 24th - - MTA Board Meeting - - Cuomo is discussing creating a position called a "Transportation Officer" - he is planning on re-configuring the MTA, but Cuomo both denies

responsibility and takes responsibility for this action. We seek to go to the meeting and seek that if they are hiring a Transportation Officer that the office and position is transparent.

August 1st - Back to NY Supreme Court for our next hearing in Judge Hagler's courtroom - where the Judge ruled that the cases where people are charging the MTA with abandoning the ADA - Judge Hagler said "You have to obey the law" - but what it means in reality, is that this case has been brought forward; MTA is seeking to appeal this decision.

Clarification - there will also be Facebook events for the actions mentioned by the Elevator Committee.

July 20th - Impeach Parade/Procession in the Theater District

Steps off at 6:30

First bit around the perimeter of Bryant Park, across 42nd St, up Broadway, up to What the constitution means to me, up Shubert alley, to Hamilton - - stops at all these places where we sing, and call to impeach. No plans to take the street... yet.

We have Sing Out Louise joining us

The Brass Band "Pussy Grabs Back"

We have a drag king, "Robert Muller"

We have multiple cheerleaders - Danceride and the Tailshakers and the Big Apple Waves - 7 umbrellas that spell out "Impeach"

Meet at Bryant Park at 6:15, at the Fountain - at 41st and 6th.

The whole thing should be about an hour.

Come, have fun, make noise.

NEW ACTIONS

We are in the middle of talking to people up and down the Eastern Seaboard to coalesce to do some actions at the Border, and in DC. We are starting to work in coalition to put together the kinds of numbers that would make an action feel fabulous and powerful, and to plug people into the kinds of things that they want to do. Working in part with the Center for Popular Democracy - Seasoned activists with infrastructure, and considering plugging ourselves in.

Occupy Congress - the 9th-13th of September (supported by the Center for Popular Democracy)

Space for Civil Disobedience training on August 3rd - new space in the Tompkins Square Library - - Librarians can be counted on to be pro-first amendment.

July 30th is the anniversary of the signing of the Medicare and Medicaid Law, and we may have some action around that.

Getting people to do Civil Disobedience actions out of time.

Jamie - are there any other new actions to bring to the floor?

Andy Ratto brought forth an event for an endorsement - a Queens-based group doing an **Abolish ICE March on Sunday, July 14th**, at 83rd & Roosevelt Avenue in Jackson Heights from 2:00 - 5:00

Queens Neighborhoods United
QUIP
UNLocal

Vote moves to endorse by Rise and Resist

NON RISE AND RESIST EVENTS

Mike - **Lights for Liberty happening on Friday, 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm** in Foley Square.
Organized by multiple groups

Saturday, **July 13th, 11:00 am - 1:00 pm - Extinction Rebellion** has an action Meeting at the Grand Army Farmer's Market at 11:00 and then marching through Prospect Park until 1:00 pm - they did some nice art sculptures and things - based on outreach and recruitment and talking about the climate crisis.

Letter-writing to DeBlasio to make this a Sanctuary City, from someone who is part of an immigration group, saying they provide legal help to immigrants, and seek to follow up with a letter-writing campaign.

People's Power Assemblies - part of the "**Shut it down Crew**"
July 13th 1:30 - starting at Flatbush and Caton Avenue in Brooklyn
March
4 year anniversary of Sandra Bland's Death

July 17th - 5 year anniversary of Eric Garner's murder
March - Organized by People's Power Assemblies
Shut it down
6:00 pm at the Staten Island side of the Staten Island Ferry Terminal

Reclaim Pride Open Community Meeting - Wednesday July 24th, here at the People's Forum, at 7:00 pm - for community input and for building for next year.

Lights for Liberty - request to have some of the immigration banners - it is anticipated that it will be a fairly large event. Foley Square - Lights for Liberty. It is requested, that if people choose to get banners and display them at the event at Foley Square, they will need to get them back to the Action committee by Sunday.

Geroge - Tomorrow, 9:30 in the morning, a certain Soccer Team is going to converge at Battery Park and march up to City Hall

Alexandra - Thanking people for being supportive to her around her fall - in that spirit she was cleaning up her desk today, and read notice about Maryellen having some dental work -

And now we are officially at the end of the meeting.

RISE AND RESIST