

Rise and Resist General Meeting 3/26/19

Facilitators: Jamie and Alexandra

Notes: Jody

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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Introduction

- Any members of law enforcement here? None responded.
- Any working journalists here? None responded
- Raise your hand when you have something to say, give your name and preferred pronoun(s)
- Try not to be on your phone during the meeting
- Speak up and participate; anyone is welcome to vote; step back if you speak a lot
- Kellen has Metrocards for anyone who needs one to get to and from the meeting or actions
- Greeter introduction; any new members (about 4) - Donna is greeter
- Elizabeth is the ASL translator - try not to get in front of her
- Went around the room and everyone said their name
- Reading of the Mission Statement

REPORT BACKS

Release the Documents (Rick, Jamie)

- Thursday at 1 pm in a steady drizzle
- 30 people demonstrated in front of Trump Tower
- 7 people who the House Judiciary requested documents from work in that building for the Trump Org
- Had photos and names on posters - saying they should cooperate
- NYPD wasn't happy we were there but they let us stay in front of the building
- Security filmed us
- Comment: it was simple and well-regarded action
- Comment: there are photos of the action on Getty Images

Koch Lies and the Planet Dies (Claire)

- Sunday gathered in front of The Met Museum on the Koch Plaza names for David Koch who is a climate denier and funds lots of climate deniers
- No police and no counter protestors
- Rude Mechanical Orchestra was there
- Partners
 - 350NYC
 - Food and Water Watch
 - 350 Brooklyn
- Someone from Jewish Climate Action Network there
- Other groups are excited that Rise and Resist has a Climate Action Group now
- Decent media coverage - NY1
- WBAI interview in process
- Could have done better:
 - needed a dedicated chant leader
 - the media coverage changed the message - we weren't demanding that the Met disassociate from David Koch - but NY1 portrayed it that way
 - How do you control the message when there are other people there who may not know what the message is?
 - It's hard to stay on message when you're interviewed in the street if you haven't rehearsed. It's good to rehearse your message. No matter what the question is - that's what you say.
- About 60 people there
- Comment: Ann Northrup had a standard reply for interviews "it's dumb and it won't work"
- Comment: there were people sitting on the steps who just joined in - being in such a public place on a nice day helped a lot
- Thanks to Mary Hawkins for graphic design
- Diane Lent found great photos with climate disasters to go on large posters
- Comment: you were great on NY1.
- Security tried to tell us we couldn't come up on the steps with signs. We said "no".

UPCOMING ACTIONS

Elevator Actions (Jennifer, Timothy)

- Tomorrow morning (Wednesday, March 27) at the MTA
- 8:30 am for monthly MTA meeting at 9 am
- Pressing point home to MTA that they need to make the subway accessible
- Honoring Malaysia Goodson who fell to her death on the stairs at a station without an elevator
- The People's MTA is a partner in this event
- Some of Malaysia's family will be attending - we hope they will be addressing the MTA - and we will be supporting them
- This action was approved by the ERT - now we need the endorsement of the floor

- Elevator Action Group has repeated actions in front of the courthouse and in front of the MTA - can these actions be seen as an ongoing set of actions without needing approval each time?
- Will make an action to RAR for when they want to redo posters and for any other actions aside from the courthouse and the MTA
- **VOTE: To endorse the ERT's decision to endorse the action tomorrow**
 - **Passed almost unanimously**
- **VOTE: To approve actions at courthouse and MTA as ongoing actions**
 - **Passed unanimously**

Seeking Asylum is not a Crime (Jamie)

- US Immigration Policy is a Crime
- Friday at 5:30 pm in Times Square at 43rd St and 7th Ave in front of the Recruitment Center
- We have a new banner
- We'll have some new signs and photos
- It's a silent protest
- Comment: the photos we've been using have all been about the border and families - we've added photos of ICE in action - showing it's not just children and not just the border
- Q: Will there be a flyer?
- A: Yes, we should have a new flyer for this one and new RAR palm cards
- A couple dozen people at the meeting said they would go

For the new people, our actions are listed on our facebook page and we write them on the whiteboard and the minutes will go up within 24 hours of the meeting if you get lost in all of these actions.

Collected rent - pay what you can

NEW ACTIONS

Not an action, but as someone in a wheelchair, it is difficult when businesses don't comply with ADA (Martin)

- I have flyers on how to comply with ADA guidelines
- Come see me after the meeting if you're interested

Postcard Party (Mary, Rachel)

- Wrote postcards for a judge for Wisconsin Supreme Court
- Made handmade cards for local mosques
 - NYers stand in support and solidarity with our Muslim friends
 - Will have the cards at the table at the end
- Thursday, april 18, 209 East 56th St, Apt 6B - 7 pm

Barr Summary of the Mueller Report (Ken)

- I met all of you all when we had a huge letdown when Trump was elected
- Had similar feelings when the Report came out
- We want to process feelings
- The fact is that we thought we were going to be getting some different news
- How do we get to what's actually in that report?
- Of course we want to have the full report released but we shouldn't put everything on Mueller - he's still a racist misogynist
 - It's not just Mueller and Russia
 - There are still plenty of reasons to be angry
- There are indictments that came out as a result of the Mueller investigation
- We should support the courts and the continued pressure they put on the Trump administration
- I am really angry - I'm not surprised because of who Mueller is - I didn't think he was going to come out with anything that would significantly impede his agenda
 - This is another example of how the Democratic party is failing us - he is a criminal
 - We need to push the Southern District of NY to prosecute
- The House voted unanimously that the report should be released in detail - McConnell blocked it in the Senate
- I feel just like the election happened again - I feel hopeless - on colbert last night he had a long list of things that Trump has done wrong - only the Mueller Report is crossed off
- I was never convinced that Mueller would turn anything up because Trump isn't smart enough
 - The Report actually said it wasn't Mueller's place to charge him with obstruction - that's up to Congress
- The problem with us focusing on his corruption - that's the role of investigators and politicians. We should focus on the crimes we know - immigration, climate denial, proposing violence and military action, voter suppression, education, healthcare - we shouldn't focus on this scandal alone
- The response from Nadler and Schumer is tepid - we should target them - pick something glaringly illegal and go after that
- If we decide not to do anything in the next 1-2 weeks, MoveOn is planning something with one of their big rallies - maybe Wednesday or Thursday after next week
- Three broad strategies; next year's election - make sure that election goes the right way; focus on all of the bad policy things; there's a messaging war right now - Trump and allies are saying drop this, it's over. We need to make sure that does not prevail. Get Schumer, Pelosi's, Nadler's back on this.
- The press office is threatening to prosecute people for treason
- People have been put on a "do not book" list for TV - it's on a memo from Trump's communication office.
- I never thought we should pay so much attention on Trump and the Russians - I would like us to keep our focus on immigration, etc. But we can't just ignore this. I don't think that anyone will let this drop. I don't know what our role should be here.
- The demo we did outside of Trump Tower last week was a good example of what we should continue to do - we highlighted all of his crimes.

- We should think about our messaging with “impeach” - hearings shed sunlight on things that he doesn’t want sunlight shed on
 - He was not exonerated of other things
- Calling out the media for buying Trump’s interpretation of this so quickly - using words like “exoneration”
- Trump is using the word “evil” to describe his detractors - Republicans are calling for Adam Schiff to resign and be locked up - this is scary
- I’d like to see some sort of big splashy action to get the message across -
 - What is the message?
 - He’s still corrupt
 - Not exonerated
 - Release the Report
 - What if the report isn’t that damaging?
- We should keep doing exactly what we’re doing - we work on a variety of issues
 - We should increase our coalition work
 - We can be part of the MoveOn action
 - Strengthen our community
- Will the Mueller coordinating group be part of whatever MoveOn calls?
 - If there’s a call to come out next week, we will be part of the coalition organizing it - going out into the streets saying “Release the report”
- What about doing an illumination at the UN building about all of his crimes
- **VOTE: To support the MoveOn action - “release the report”**
 - **Passes with a few abstentions**

Meeting tasks - clipboard going around for the month of April

- Opening room, closing the room, slides, taking notes, greeter

Close Rikers Campaign (Sarita)

- Since April 2106, JustLeadershipUSA has been leading a campaign to close Rikers - movement led by people directly impacted
- Rikers Island is a human rights travesty
- Mayor has said he will do it - his plan of action started yesterday
- Rikers is not yet closed
- New jail in the Bronx - the Bronx does not have a jail currently
- Reducing the jail population is part of the plan - the City says less than 5,000, Close Rikers says less than 3500
- The Mayor has not put forth a plan of how the facilities he’s planning will be different from Rikers aside from the isolation - how will they operate differently
- Those facilities should not be under the control of the Department of Corrections
- There are public hearings coming up
- There are other groups that want to stop the Mayor’s plan
 - No New Jails
 - NIMBY
- CloseRikers wants to improve the Mayor’s plan

- They want people to have a very visual reminder of the horrors of Rikers outside of the hearings
 - Would Rise and Resist be interested in developing some art outside these hearings?
- Q: What keeps Rikers from closing right now?
- A: Would you imagine it closing tonight and people go some place else or everyone gets released? We're not going to get out of mass incarceration overnight.
 - End cash bail - 3700 people out of 8,000 released - some people would be remanded (no option of bail)
 - People are there on parole holds
 - People are serving time for technical parole violations - like missing curfew
 - People are there serving short sentences
- I'm uncomfortable with being part of a campaign that's pushing for 4 new jails - how do we end mass incarceration with new jails?
 - We think Rikers needs to close urgently - to do so without doing anything would take a long time. NYC has 12 jails right now. They have proposed demolishing all 12 of those and building 4.
 - CloseRikers is pushing those to be run unlike any jail we've ever seen
 - These are not built on a punishment model
 - More restorative justice and community accountability
 - Full abolition is probably at least a generation away
- DSA is arguing against any new jails
- The Mayor's entire proposal - is to reduce all of the jail beds to 6,000 from 15,000 - we think it can be smaller
- Ask of Rise and Resist is to support CloseRikers with art-making and presence outside of the hearings - each Community Board will set the hearings in the next 60 days
- Comment: this is a complicated issue - I don't feel like Rise and Resist knows enough to endorse this - but maybe individual members want to work on this
 - Someone spoke to us 2 years ago and we endorsed CloseRikers
 - A large part of this movement are people who are directly affected with this - which is why it is really compelling
- Comment: I don't really understand the issue with the island - what does this have to do with the real estate?
 - there's a rumor that the city wants to build luxury housing on Rikers Island that can be traced back to the Corrections Officers union
 - Rikers Island is built on trash and has height restrictions
- Does it really matter what happens to the island after?
- It impedes justice by its very design - people can't see their lawyers
- The model they're proposing just has guards at entrances and exits
- We have endorsed the CloseRikers campaign
- **VOTE: to endorse participation and have a presence outside of the hearings**
 - **Passed almost unanimously**
- Sarita's contact info - sarita@justleadershipusa.org, 202-486-0123

Elections (Eve)

- At end of getting the budget together
- We have signed off on a letter from TrueBlue - re automatic voter registration
- Fair Election Proposal/public financing of elections - the State Senate has been pushing for it - any small donor would be matched at 6x that rate - small donors would have a lot more say
 - Carl Heastie is saying he's not sure the Assembly can do this - even though he has been in past years
 - AFL-CIO came out against it
 - If you have time, call Cuomo tomorrow and ask him to make sure election financing is in the budget
 - Thursday - emergency action in Albany
- Budget is supposed to be done by March 31 - supposed to print 3 days before
 - On Saturday, March 30th, there may be a big rally here in NYC on fair elections - either in the Bronx or in midtown Manhattan
- Details will be posted on facebook if there are buses going up on Thursday
- Q: Why is it 6 to 1 if the city just raised it to 8 to 1?
- A: I don't know
- If you go to the fair elections website, there are lots of actions you can take fairelectionsny.org
- Q: Has there been any progress in fighting his austerity budgeting?
- A: No
- Tax revenues still on the table: Pied de terre tax, carried interest tax [plus one more that was missed]

Alliance for Fair Food (Alex)

- Partner of Coalition of Immokalee Workers
- Bypassed farmers and went straight to the consumers corporations (McDonald's, etc)
- Require zero tolerance for sexual harassment and proper breaks, bathrooms, etc
- Worker-driven social responsibility
- Boycott of Wendy's - national campaign
- Reminding us of the campaign - will be in NY leading up to the shareholder meeting in April or May
- Might want an endorsement
- When they get the details of the action, we will put the action and the boycott up for an endorsement vote
- Q: Do you look for people to enter as proxies?
- A: We are looking for people to enter as proxies and also speak up as current shareholders
- The people's Forum will have a big gathering on May 1 for international workers day

Finance (Robert)

- Net worth is \$14,100 - decrease of \$400
- \$170 collected tonight
- \$1000 left on the AJ Muste grant to spend by June 30th

Trump Hotel March photos on table - take one

Patricia's mother had a stroke this morning

- If anyone has her lawyer's contact info - call them and see if they can help
- Call the US Attorney's office 212-637-2220 and ask them to let Patricia go to the Republic of Congo to see her mother

NON RISE AND RESIST ANNOUNCEMENTS

GAG (Ken)

- Today on Capitol Hill during Red Flag hearings
- GAG Members were in place with GAG t-shirts behind Lindsay Graham during Ted Cruz talking
- And Maryellen disrupted hearing

NRA Fundraiser

- Was scheduled for April 25th - venue cancelled
- Asking for Rise and Resist to co-sponsor
- Will come back with more details

Wells Far-no campaign

- They have given nearly 5 million dollars to the NRA and gun industry since Sandy Hook

Reclaim Pride (Jackie)

- Citywide organizing meeting tomorrow night for the Queer Liberation March
- Starting in Sheridan Square and going up to the Great Lawn
- Tomorrow night at Church of the Village 6:30-8:30 pm - 13th Street and 7th Ave

DSA for NYC (Matthew)

- 96th Street down in Manhattan
- Democratic Socialists of America
- Trying to build coalition - talk to him if there's stuff you'd like to build coalition on
- Also a candidate for the 76th Assembly District - sign his petition to get on the ballot

The Boys Who Said No (Donna)

- March 30th at Quaker Meeting House - flyers on the table

RISE AND RESIST