

Rise and Resist General Meeting 4/16/19

Facilitators: Jamie and Jay

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

- Anybody work for law enforcement? (none responded)
- Any working journalists? (none responded)
- Be present/stay off your phones
- Step up/step back
- Remember we're all on the same side - we can disagree without attacking each other
- Raise your hand and be recognized by the facilitator before you speak
- Give your name and pronouns
- Reading of the mission statement
- We have metro cards for anyone who needs help getting to and from the meeting
- Introduce Elizabeth , the ESL interpreter
- Everyone said their name
- Anyone here for the first time? One person - Timothy will act as greeter

REPORT BACKS

Carl Heastie PAC at Terroir (Paul, Cherie)

- the Elections group with Indivisible groups, VOCAL-NY
- protested big ticket fundraiser for Carl Heastie on April 11
- Heastie had been supportive of public financing of elections when there was a Republican State Senate and there was no chance of getting it
- Now that it's possible, he's changed his tune
- We have a commission instead of the public financing
- He held a \$25k per person fundraiser - which is exactly what we want eliminated
- He corralled some supporters to counter protest
- They started chanting, so we chanted back
- It was an excellent action - we got a lot of attention
- We got a piece in the WSJ, Tribeca Tribune and NY1
- At the end there was a mic check led by VOCAL and NY Communities for Change that was excellent

- Back and forth about the action
 - This demo was setup in about 8 days - went public with it last Tuesday
 - We got an indirect offer from Andrea Stewart Cousins saying that if we called it off, we could get a meeting with Heastie
 - We also got an offer from Rev. Foy on behalf of Heastie with the same offer
 - We're on the same side as these folks - so it's kind of sad
 - It rattled the Assembly and the Senate - just because they didn't put it in the budget, doesn't mean we'll go away
 - We did agree to not target Heastie but target the Assembly in a more general way
- COMMENT: I had a long conversation with the Rev. Foy - he said Heastie has delivered a lot of things during his tenure for his district which is why they're so loyal. I pointed out to them that he now represents the whole state as the Speaker of the Assembly - he's not just representing his district.
- COMMENT: I can't understand why you didn't target Heastie
 - A: it was a judgement call when I was speaking to the Rev ahead of time - trying to avoid an ugly confrontation/keep the temperature low. Not sure it was the right decision or not.
 - A: I think we had a real interest in de-escalating the situation so it was a demo against big money in politics and not a confrontation between two sets of protestors. Lots of people on the committee thought we had already won - lots of attention had been paid before we got out there.
- COMMENT: How many in each group? RAR, VOCAL, counter-protestors
 - A: 40-50 on our side; 15-20 counter. The people inside knew we were there
- COMMENT: I saw the news coverage but I had no idea what the demo was about. What did we win?
 - A: We put the Assembly on notice - just because they're Dems, doesn't mean we're going to give them a pass.
- COMMENT: Did anyone follow up with Heastie's office about the \$25k/per head? I'm concerned about national elections.
 - A: There will be some follow up later in the meeting. Foy's group was trying to portray us as white gentrifiers. Fortunately, we were a diverse coalition, but they didn't stop - after the action was over, Foy continued to portray our side as the white gentrifiers. So coalition work is important. Another reason not to use the signs with the photo of the black Assembly Speaker.
 - VOCAL and Communities for Change stepped up quickly - follow them on Twitter

The Moral March for Housing (Alexandra)

- At the same time as the Heastie action
- Rally at Church and then march down to 125th Street
- Pretty calm action
- Lots of people from the neighborhood

Trump Hotel 20 Court Appearance (Livvie, Rick)

- When Trump declared the state of emergency, we planned an action at the Trump Hotel
- NYPD wouldn't let us march on the sidewalk so we sat down in the middle of the street
- They arrested 20 of us - wasn't planned but it was so enraging
- Monday was the court date - a few different choices
 - ACDs - Adjournment in Contemplation of Dismissal
- They offered us all ACDs - 6 or 7 took them and 13 people didn't - in hopes that there might be hopes down the line to argue that NYPD shouldn't have blocked the sidewalk

- Next court date is May 20th

Seeking Asylum is Not A Crime (Diane, Donna)

- Last Friday, April 12 - immigration action at Fox News in the Plaza - took over the Plaza
- 2 big banners and some new photos - showing adults and ICE, not just children at the border
- 25-30 people there
- Good spot for an action - we'd want to go there again
- COMMENT: I was handing out flyers on the sidewalk - people were pretty receptive. A man from France said he was organizing on immigration issues in France
- COMMENT: It felt a little far removed - this felt less immediate as some of the other locations
- Q: Was there pushback about being on the Plaza?
- A: No - they just asked us to leave a space for people to get through
- Scaramucci apparently walked through as did other Fox personalities
- The two demos were polar opposites - Fox/Heastie

Seeking Asylum in Not A Crime - next action on April 25th at the Adam Clayton Powell State Office Building on 125th Street at 5:30 pm

UPCOMING ACTIONS

MTA Fare Hike (Jennifer)

- Tomorrow at 8:30 am in front of 2 Broadway
- No fare hike without accessibility
- Helen Rosenthal put out a resolution demanding that the MTA make the subways accessible before a fare hike - but she seems to have backed off and now she won't be there
- Malaysia Goodson's cousin was going to try to be there but she can't now - but we are including Malaysia in the messaging
- We have a signed petition that we're presenting to the MTA - hoping to get 200 signatures by tomorrow morning
- Q: If Helen Rosenthal is our rep, is there any point in contacting her?
- A: Yes, please do
- COMMENT: I think the demand should be "No fare hike and full accessibility" - they shouldn't be allowed to have a fare hike if they give accessibility
- A: I appreciate that, but we're really focussed on this issue
- Helen Rosenthal is not retracting it - she's just not ready to go public yet
- Can sign petition from RAR homepage

Climate Action Group (Claire)

- RAR endorsed an action this Thursday, April 18 led by Sane Energy
- Gather at City Hall and walk across the Brooklyn Bridge
- Protesting the Williams Pipeline
 - Noise from construction will harm marine animals
 - Williams has a terrible safety record
 - Churning up NY Harbor will cause damage
- Cuomo has the ability to stop this - Trump is trying to take that right away from him - not sure where that stands
- Q: Where exactly will this be?
- A: It will cross the lower bay of NY Harbor - coming from Pennsylvania
- It would be great to have a big RAR contingent there

- We have signs here for people who know they will make it on Thursday
- A number of people in the room think they will be able to go
- Q: Can you give a little more detail? What if you can't walk across the bridge?
- A: There's a rally at the beginning and the end. 5:30 pm at City Hall and then there will be a circle up at the other end at 7:30ish at Cadman Plaza. IF you can't walk across the bridge, come to City Hall before - 15 Centre Street (East side of City Hall)

Betsy DeVos Protest (Jamie)

- May 1st at 6 pm- DeVos is getting an award at Cipriani on 42nd St
- Important to get the word out about it with teachers and parents and students
- Need to get a nice crowd to be really loud - if you have connections in the world of education, get the word out
- She's fallen off of a lot of people's radar - important that people show up
- COMMENT: Mary offered to do a new graphic for the event - do we want several graphics to highlight her failings?
- A: We've discussed messaging - when you list the things she's doing, they don't look that terrible. She's trying to take out the funding from all of the schools and establish a Christian right wing hetero normative structure. But when you list the individual things it doesn't look so bad. If Mary wants to work some stuff up, that would be good.
- COMMENT: The UFT - or part of it - is interested in being there. Student loans are one of her egregious areas - not sure if there's a club or something where we could get access to a bunch of those people. She's also affecting charter schools and special ed.
- What we were thinking is ~~Secretary~~ Destroyer of Education
- COMMENT: There are also stories that she's had something to do with separation of children - is that something you want to focus on? Is that confirmed?
- A: It's not listed on the websites of orgs that are fighting her
- Q: Where exactly will you be? That's a crowded area
- A: We would try to be right in front of Cipriani
- Q: Is this a loud action with noisemakers?
- A: We didn't discuss - but I think it would be a chanting demo
- COMMENT: I recall last time we were there, the cops pulled a bunch of garbage trucks in front. I think we need to bring noise makers so they can hear us if they can't see us
- A: I doubt they'll do that for a cabinet member - that was for Trump. There may be pens.
- We'll meet at 6 pm - their event starts at 6:30
- COMMENT: Class size is an issue - Alliance for Quality Education and NY Communities for Change would be interested in this.
- A: Everyone use your contact on this please - don't just leave it for the Actions Committee
- COMMENT: Possible slogan - Education is not for Sale

Collect Rent

May Meeting Tasks (Donna)

- Sign up sheet going around for the May meeting tasks
- Opening, Closing, Taking Notes, Doing Slides, and Greeter
- Please sign up especially for taking notes if you can

Discussion of RAR Participation in "Mueller Coalition" (Jamie)

- Question was raised about whether we should continue to be part of this coalition

- Do we want to discuss this on the floor - being part of coalitions that don't operate the way we do (top down, permitting actions, etc)
- Way back when Mueller was appointed and everyone thought he would be fired right away - RAR had a plan to have a demo on the day Mueller got fired. We became part of a coalition.
 - There have been 3 Mueller demos - when Sessions was fired, one that was for freedom and democracy, and one to release the report
 - That coalition appears to be having phone convos about future emergency actions
 - MoveOn has been coordinating these calls
 - Do we want to continue to participate in that?
- COMMENT: It's hard to make a decision when we don't know what the circumstance might be. Ann was looking for our guidance on what she should do as our representative to that group.
- Because they're emergency actions, they happen pretty quickly
- COMMENT: There are these high profile Democratic party orgs claiming the mantle of the "resistance" - it's part of that issue
- Rather than have that conversation right now - do we want to put some time aside next week to talk about this? Hopefully some of the people involved with the Mueller committee can be here for that.
- COMMENT: We discussed this at Healthcare last week - when we have our own actions, people show up. When we join coalition actions with a stage and speakers, no one comes.
- STRAW POLL: Who thinks we should discuss this next week?
- Vast majority said yes we should, a good number of abstentions
- We will ask the Mueller crew to be here and prepare something - hopefully next week, or in the near future
- COMMENT: Maybe it needs to be a broader conversation about coalitions in general.

NEW ACTIONS

Elections (Livvie)

- Letter to Andrea Stewart Cousins expressing displeasure regarding public funding of elections
- Thursday - the State Senate is having their Spring Gala - to fundraise for the NYS DSCC
- Since this was dropped out of the budget - want to push Senate and Assembly to create freestanding legislation on campaign financing
- We want to make the point gently that we're still here and we still care about this
- It's not a demo - it's more of a leafleting
- Since Rise and Resist people will be there in t-shirts, we're asking for permission from the floor
- Thursday, April 18 at the Dream Hotel on 16th Street off 9th Ave at 5:45 pm until 7 pm
- Just need a few people - talk to Livvie if you're interested
- There will be a group leafleting alongside us - HALT - to end solitary confinement
- COMMENT: there won't be signs or chanting - it's not a protest - just handing the letter to people as they go in.
- Q: Is there a plan - we're not doing anything big in advance online - but what about after?
- A: Yes, after there will be a press release, etc.
- **VOTE: To move forward with this plan passes unanimously**

Discussion of Action To Support Ilhan Omar (Jamie)

- We should be doing something in support of her - it's complicated but not that complicated
- Yemeni boycott and refusal to carry the NY Post
 - NY Post is an amplifier of the criticisms of Omar
 - Fox has also been amplifying

- NY Post and Fox are in the same building - 1211 Avenue of the Americas
- is this something that people are interested in doing - we stand with and support the boycott of the Post and/or to support Ilhan Omar
- COMMENT: It's a question of when - this is immediate. Wouldn't we need to do it this week?
- A: Won't happen this week but the Yemeni boycott is a 30-day boycott.
- Q: What would you want to focus on most specifically? The way the media is treating her or the Israeli comment or...?
- A: We think she's being singled out because she is a Muslim woman of color - we are glad she is in the House and we're glad that she's speaking out and we support her
- COMMENT: Trump has a history of demonizing women of color - a lot of women of color have been in his crosshairs. This is a tactic of his- so there isn't really a timeframe on this.
- COMMENT: We have to be ready to handle the issue of anti-semitism as well as of Islamophobia - our positions may be varied on that issue.
- COMMENT: I agree with the message of stop attacking women of color/support women of color
- COMMENT: His comments on 9/11 are despicable in general - not sure how we use that
- COMMENT: Ilhan Omar has not had backup from Democratic leadership - we need to stand up for her if they won't
- COMMENT: she seems most vulnerable of being marginalized - AOC and maxine Waters have a lot of people behind them. I'd like to tie it to Muslim hatred
- COMMENT: I'd like to tie it to criticizing Israel is not anti-semitism
- Do people prefer very soon or when...?
- Definitely after Passover
- Possibly on a weekend?
- COMMENT: I would recommend maybe doing it on a Sunday instead of a Saturday because of the anti-semitism issue
- COMMENT: It is also another opportunity for coalition work and building (JFREJ, etc)
- Possibly April 27 or 28?
- Will be discussed in Actions
- Sunday afternoon demo outside of Fox?

New Project (Sola)

- Working on launching a media channel - first channel will be a women's media channel
- What makes it unique - will be specifically giving voice to activist orgs
- Content that engages people to want to act immediately - direct call to action
- Company is called Stacked Media
- Fill the gap that mainstream media has neglected
- Following the women who are running for President
- Immigration, ERA, rollbacks on basic rights
- Launching it in 3 phases - 1) Facebook watch and YouTube 2) Standalone platform 3) maybe eventually something like Hulu
- News source that we can trust - voices that are underrepresented in the media
- Putting together a steering committee of activist orgs so that they have our input
- Q: Have you looked at Pluto? New cable network - adding a lot of channels. It would be great to include Women and AIDS - can I connect you with ACT UP?
- A: Definitely - we want your input and connections. We need your content.
- Q: Are you planning on covering our actions like Now This, etc?
- A: Yes, we're open to this
- Does anyone want to get involved by being on the steering committee? and maybe be a producer down the line

- Email sola@st8cked.com
- Q: Do you have a sense of how involved steering committee members would be?
- A: The most important thing right now is brainstorming content ideas. Our plan is to launch in September. As we get closer to launch, I envision steering committee members being more involved in that process.
- Will have a pitch deck by the end of next week
- Would RAR be interested in hosting mini town halls for the female candidates running for President
- A: RAR doesn't really get behind candidates - we would be more likely to be protesting them.

Comms (Dann)

- Who's going to the pipeline action Thursday? Not sure if Comms can cover it - can people take video and photos and send to media@riseandresist.org
- Cherie will do RAR twitter
- Queer Liberation March from Reclaim Pride
 - andyratto@gmail.com - if you want to help with comms stuff
 - Need volunteers on June 30

Finance

- We have to register with the NYS charities bureau - need a street address and telephone number - need someone to volunteer - it will be public info
- Collected \$143 tonight
- Net worth \$13,600 - no change from last week
- COMMENT: I think you can just use the post office box - I do it all the time
- COMMENT: Do you want to contact the board members and ask if any of them would do it?

NON RISE AND RESIST ANNOUNCEMENTS

Fundraiser for Corey Johnson (Harris)

- Thursday, April 18 - 6:30-8 pm
- harrisdorran@gmail.com - email him for invite
- Right around the corner from the NYS Dem leafleting

Extinction Rebellion (Cherie)

- In London - had thousands of people out on the streets over the last couple of days
- Lots going on - they're bringing in all kinds of people
- Here in NYC - tomorrow morning - City Hall at 9am
 - Don't know exact plans but will be building a giant seawall at City Hall
 - There will be some CD
 - Calling on the government to take action

Asian Heritage Week (Wendy)

- tomorrow - Borough of Manhattan Community College
- 2:30 pm - 15 minute play reading plus discussion "Trying to Find Chinatown"
- FREE

RISE AND RESIST