

Rise and Resist General Meeting 4/9/19

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 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 - Alexandria 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 Full Mueller Report Action:

- Wroff: This action was under a coalition with Public Citizen that we took part in. There was a lot of involvement from younger folks. This was to encourage the release of the report. We filled the block from 42nd - 41st St. After we tried to end the March in Madison Square Park some of the kids took over the megaphones and they were very enthusiastic.
- Mark: How many actions across the country?
- Wroff: 300
- Ann: I've been on this committee and my role was to represent RAR. This was the first action since Mueller's job is over and I think it might be a good time to initiate taking another look at our involvement in the committee, which has changed since we became

part of it. One of the conditions of our involvement is there were things we don't participate in. One of them is participating in actions that have speakers, esp. politicians and celebrities. This was an agreement until now that there was a plan. The plan was to gather at Times Square there'd be a march to Madison Square, and if someone was going to have a speaker they'd have it in Times Square. But this even morphed into leaving our way of doing things in the dust. The committee has shifted and become dominated by people who want an event with political speakers & celebrities. It was a permitted action which we don't do. There were pens. I feel in a quandary representing us. Maybe there aren't enough people to have this conversation but we need to talk about if we want to be part of this.

- Jennifer: Who's the committee?
- Ann: The committee started as a coalition that we helped start, and we had a group that was working on Mueller and Sessions and what we'd do if he was fired. We joined with the March for Truth, Indivisible, etc. Not really anyone from MoveOn. So it's mostly a lot of Indivisible type people and us. So I think it we should have a discussion.
- Andy: I'm curious how many people were at the protest? So lots of us saw it in person. There is a coordinating committee that has 10 people on it, Ann, me and Wroff are part of it. We have calls talking about what the next steps are and when to mobilize. Our focus is more narrow than what Ann's describing. What's energized this is Trump isn't above the law. That pertained to the Mueller investigation but now it pertains to the report. Mueller said "I'm not going to treat this as a criminal matter but a political one to give to Congress" and Barr said "I'm not giving this to congress." This puts Trump above the law. This protest was to call for the release of the report which hasn't happened. Barr testified and claimed he wouldn't turn over the full report to Congress. So from the perspective of the coalition we're still treating that as a crisis for the rule of law if Congress can't see the result. There will also be request for Trump's taxes, they won't give it, it might go to the Supreme Court. I think we should push back about a general "defend democracy" direction. I think it's about the rule of law. We can talk about the nature of the protests we're part of but this is ongoing.
- Jean: You said "affirmative action?"
- Jay: "Permitted action."
- Jamie: I was part of the marshalls. Can we be part of the coalition but push back against letting democratic politicians speak? Can we push back against sound permits and pens? There's a benefit from being in a coalition. One of the earlier demos where we just gathered in Times Square and marched was a better demonstration. I have a problem with MoveOn because they are a PAC and they are a democratic party PAC. I don't think they should decide when we demonstrate. The coalition should determine what the priorities are and when we should demonstrate rather than depending on Move On.
- Ann: When I brought up this question I wasn't questioning the importance of the issues or necessity of a coalition but the idea we need to push back against is what a lot of the people in the committee want, this kind of action. I feel a concern to represent us when we're there. I may push back but it really doesn't matter what I say. They do what they want to do. MoveOn did call both of these demos, both this one and the one back in the

fall. So this coalition group is coordinating with them. There was some talk that MO was going to rescind the call and this group wanted to do it anyway so there was some difference. But I wonder if it's possible to push back on that.

- Alexandra: There's a time issue.
- Wrolf: I understand what you're saying because I haven't heard anything about people who have side conversations about future actions.
- Ann: There was a phone call a couple of months ago. Remember when you stepped up and organized the marshalling? Before that there was a conversation about how the group wanted to be MO's goto group. I'm on the committee to represent RAR's interests and I want some instruction whether I should continue, how we want to continue.
- Mary: I don't know how the 10 people think but going on Jamie's point but there are things we do that make demonstrations better. I don't think you can not have politicians and a permit but push back on pens. Would that be better?
- Jennifer: We should put some time aside for another meeting to discuss this. We will come back to it.
- Jennifer: There is a change in the agenda. We're moving the Seeking Asylum is Not a Crime til later because it fits with what's happening then.

UPCOMING EVENTS

The Williams Pipeline March and Rally

<https://www.facebook.com/events/388564141966519/?ti=icl>

- Stu: The action is April 18, and it starts at the Brooklyn Bridge. It's coordinated by a bunch of environmental groups. What they want from us is marshalling. It looks like it's going to be a large action. It makes me uneasy. It's going to start with politicians speeches, it's the same kind of thing. The idea of having a coalition is good but we're wrestling if we should do this. I want to come later and march over the bridge. When I heard about it it depressed me, not because everything has to be like RAR, but when politicians talk it's boring.
- Mark: What is it?
- Stu: The Williams Pipeline a pipeline from Pennsylvania through NY state. If you're serious about fighting fossil fuels you don't build a pipeline like this. It's a march over the BB but it begins with speeches.
- Mark: Some of these are small time politicians who are very liberal.
- Stu: good point.
- Wrolf: I feel strongly that all nonviolent methods of protest are valid. There is a space for mass actions which unfortunately means speakers. I never listen to them but it's valid. There are number of actions happening that week. Is that the only one we're taking part of?
- Stu: Extinction rebellion is different, it's a number of Civil Disobedience actions over the week. We're not taking part because they plan it and if someone wants to go, you could go, but we're not going to do it as an organization. But they're a great org.

- Zach: Question about ER: it kicks off at city hall at 9am. Is the reason we're not getting involved is because we're not getting enough info?
- Stu: Yes. There is an action Sunday April 14th in Prospect Park. It's going to a funeral service for extinct species.
- Jennifer: There is a lot happening all the time and we need to be informed. Thank you.
- Stu: Go to ER's website.

Heastie Failed Us: Get Big Money Out of Politics Now

<https://www.facebook.com/events/861774960831186/?ti=icl>

- Libby: Speaking for elections who mostly aren't here. We mentioned this last Tuesday morning we learned that Heastie was having a big fundraiser. There is nothing we like more than demoing at fundraisers. Heastie is raising money for his PAC. We made a bunch of signs with the theme "get money out of politics and Carl Heastie you failed us." This Thursday at 24 Harrison St. There is a Citibike stand on one corner, bakery on the other. We'll be making a lot of noise. We released the press release this morning. Albany has gone crazy on twitter. All I did was get two huge groups to sign on as cosponsors. The press is really interested. As I mentioned last week Mayda will be coming with giant inflatable Carl. Many of our allies are already committed to 6 other important things, so we won't have a huge showing but we'll be loud so if anyone can come it would be great. If anyone wants to bring noise makers we won't say no. I enjoy the collaboration with Actions Committee.
- Alexandra: gather when?
- Libby: 5:30-6:00. I want to make a point about messaging. Heastie has been making a big deal about being a representative for tenants. You can't be protecting tenants if you're taking a lot of money from REBNY.
First of all for people who don't follow the ins and outs, this is a new thing; this is a Leadership Pac, and he's the leader, and he doles it out to his members. That way he controls what bills come up. In the budget process one of the things that was a big deal was a pried a tierre tax, a tax on unoccupied apartments in these pencil buildings. One of the reasons *that* fell off the table was Heastie's college roommate was hired to kill that from the budget process. Though he's trying to be a champion on progressive issues, now he's in a different situation and he's the head of the Democratic party machine. He likes how this works because he can shake people down and hand out the money.
- Stu: That is also why he and C are the three people in the room killed the Fair Elections bill, because when there's fair elections they can't do this.
- Libby: Most of them haven't even primary challenges. It's time to rattle their cages. They were hoping we'd go away and sulk, it's on us to keep the energy up.
- Mark: Heastie had a partner in killing this: Cuomo.
- Katrina: The question that came to mind was with Heastie's relation to REBNY would we be interested in finding out if the council on housing or R3 committee are sending supporters?
- Libby: they're sending people. Please tweet about this.

- Jay: Are we giving out materials about how corrupt this situation is? Are we giving out info to people?
 - Libby: The flier is shorter. Why are we demonstrating? More concise, with link to the website.
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NY's Double Jeopardy Laws discussion

- Libby: I want to talk about NY's Double Jeopardy laws. The way they are written is Trump can't be prosecuted for things if he pardons himself. RAR signed onto a memo that we support this. It seemed like Tish James and the Senate had worked something out but now it's in danger. I'll write a link to call an assembly person.

Collect rent

Seeking Asylum Is Not A Crime

- Jen: We're going to talk about Seeking Asylum isn't a crime/firing
- Diane: We're going to have a discussion about Nielsen being fired later. This has been getting a lot more press attention which is good. FB friends who don't comment on stuff are commenting on this. I think we can get more people to join us.
- Diane: I want to call people's attention to this article on the front of the Sunday Review in the NYTimes. It's about women in Honduras being killed. This gives an understanding of why they're coming. This is the town of Poloma and 230 women are being killed by gangs and the police are working with the gangs. A woman was killed and the police tried to cover it up. There have been some legal issues that have come up.
- Donna: This is nuts and bolts about demos. The last one was in Times Square and it wasn't so great because there's a lot going on in TS. Our materials were great but not such a good venue. We're looking for outdoor spaces that have as much attention but people can pause and join us. We've been talking about going north and the boroughs. Next asylum demo st 530 Fox Plaza (1211 Ave. of Americas). We're looking for places in Bk and Queens. If you have suggestions let us know.
- Mary: should we suggest now?
- Donna: Maybe later
- Jennifer: does anything have something to say about firing?
- Jay: The Kristin Nielsen thing, she was just a parrot for whatever Steven Miller chose to put out. The real scary thing is that SM is getting more power. We pay some attention to him but when I look at the attention that's been paid to Ilhan Omar over dubious statements you can see different ways, and compare that to the free ride SM has gotten from the press over 1-2 tweets that was days of news not just on Fox. But a white supremacist from childhood has power in the White House and it's been ignored. We need to do something about that.

- Jamie: What upset me was that I don't want to protest KN being fired, but the fact that they're looking at a more hardline solution like closing the border and indefinitely detaining people, even if they are legal we are getting ourselves back into a cycle of completely immoral policies we're going to have to fight. We need to step up our immigration demos. Maybe at Fox, which is one of the causes of this. We need to step up our talk about White Nationalists and like Jay said, SM is the main person. The other thing that's really upsetting me is the anti-semitic accusations against people criticising SM. I'd like to see us do something about that.
- Mark: Since Miller and his ilk have used Fox News as his platform if the protest at Fox should be about SM. What's happening on May Day that we can be part of or we can do on our own?
- Andy: as Mark was saying a lot's going on 5/1 and next week we can present them and discuss them. I've seen a number of good articles in our internal email lists about SM. The offer from Media is if we should put together a page on the website we can compile some upcoming actions, steps we can take, just as a landing page you can share. We can share it on social media so people can dive in deeper. Send articles to media@riseandresist.org. You can write the content yourself.
- Virginia: If it's in front of Fox, we can focus on the lies and call them out. Rather than "Stephen Miller's bad" respond to lies.
- Zach: I think there is another angle which is that one of the reasons Nielsen was kicked out was that Trump and Miller are trying to do things that are illegal. I think that the no one's above the law is important too.
- Paul: The focus on SM is becoming more important as KN is pushed out. The second in command at DHS is out
- Jay: and the CIA
- Jay: Tactical question in terms of choices of words: I'm under the impression that white nationalist=alt-right=white supremacy. I think the other terms turn them into more respectable views.
- Jonathan: I just want to make sure that we always stay focused on what's the most important aspect. I want to make sure that we talk about changing messaging because they're always throwing stuff at us. It's about the push they are making for the Jewish vote. They are throwing at us that we're anti-Israel and anti-Semitic.
- Stu: It's easy to get lost among these characters but it's the lies about what's happening that matters. The lies about the immigrants are so vile and we don't pay attention. He says people who are fleeing for their live are lying and are coached by lawyers. I think it's critical that the democratic party's pretty much advocated that they are for border security. I think calling out the lies is so critical.
- Alexandra: [hat off] I want to make how white nationalism comes from a belief that there should be no poc in the country, white supremacy is we want poc to be our slaves, so they're different.
- Jamie: Jonathan & I were huddling about how much we can pivot for Friday's demo. A lot of our message is relevant. We can throw some extra Steven Miller and Trump's lies

signs in without making it all about that without talking about changing the message. We can bring some poster boards about that.

- Mark: A suggestion is if time is what you're concerned about is to change the order [too late]
- Q: We need to bring out Steven Miller. We talked about Bannon and where is he? He's making a school for right wing politicians. It's a long-range plan. We need to increase awareness.
- Jennifer: Actions will have a busy meeting. We're pausing this discussion for tonight.
- Libby: I'd like to add that we should gather at the eastern end of Harrison st. for the Heastie rally where the Citibike stand is.

NEW ACTIONS

Betsy DeVos in New York City on May 1st

- Kellen: On May 1st Betsy DeVos will be in NYC and we don't get enough chances to protest cabinet members. She is being given the Alexander Hamilton award at Cipriani 110 E.42nd St. 6PM.
- Q: we talked about the messaging: big report card fail, big F for Betsy DeVos.
- Kellen: we'll talk about Special Olympics, charter schools, etc.

VOTE to sponsor Betsy DeVos protest PASSES unanimously

Finance

- Robert: Our net worth decreased by \$100 to \$13,600. We collected \$130 tonight. We have \$500 to spend on the AJ Mustie grant by June 30.

Non Rise and Resist Events (other RAR business was also discussed):

Poster for Patricia from RaR to sign.

- Members are to sign letter in condolence of Patricia's mother's passing. Mary will get it to her.

Next postcard party Monday April 22.

Cuba - MLB agreement

- Virginia: Donald Trump canceled agreement between Cuba and MLB. We should have a banner drop at a baseball stadium. I found a list of Mets games on TV. The Mets and the Yankees have a Cuban player, but the Yankees Cuban is a batterer (assaulter of women). We should go to Mets games and do a banner drop "yes to Cubans" & get on TV.
- Mark M: I think an overtly anti-Trump thing won't be on TV, but pro-Cuba could.

- Zach: One other thing is they are being fairly hardass about getting things into baseball stadiums, a political banner might not get in.
- Libby: if we could arrange to propose to someone where banners are being dropped when people are making out.
- Jamie: when there's a will there's a way. The important thing is for someone to go through ahead of time. We could do it at Statue of Liberty is we went through in advance to figure out how to get it in. We could get a lightweight foldable banner in. We can put it under someone's shirt. You just have to figure out how to do it. And you need your own photographers. We did that with SOL. If you do detective work you'll get it out.
- Jennifer: Bring ideas to action group.

Revolting Lesbians protest Rebecca Mercer

- Jonothan: Saturday 4/13 at 1pm to 2pm at Museum of Natural History Revolting Lesbians will be protesting Rebecca Mercer.

Stoneman Douglas

- Jeffrey: I'm going to Florida soon to Stoneman Douglas High, I have a sympathy card so people can sign it.

Felix from Occupy

- Katrina: Felix from Occupy passed away. A celebration of his life is starting on Saturday. If you see a picture you might know him. It's in Brooklyn. Find me afterwards and I'll look it up on my phone.
Also I grabbed some info from NYC Fairer Fares so you can see it.

National Deaf LGBTQ Awareness Week

- Andy: This week is National Deaf LGBTQ Awareness Week. This is put on by the Deaf/Queer Awareness Center. Reclaim Pride is putting out some information on this community. Go to Reclaim Pride's website to learn more. If you know any New Yorkers who want to record a video put them in touch. They put out a 90 second video of kids talking about the community.

Rise and Resist