

Rise and Resist General Meeting 1.7.2020

Rise and Resist Contact Information

- Website: www.riseandresist.org
 - Email list signup <http://eepurl.com/cCzq1X>
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 - 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 - Alexandra **Facilitators** - Jamie and Jody

Welcome - NYPD or Law enforcement - Please identify yourselves, Journalists - please identify yourselves if you are reporting on this meeting. To general membership: Just because people have not self-identified as NYPD or Journalists doesn't mean that there aren't police or journalists present. We welcome journalists and their media entities, but we ask that they identify themselves in the event that people do not want to be recorded.

Please put your phones away; let's remain present.

Folks who are in spaces like this normally speak a lot. We ask that you step back, and give space to people who may not be as comfortable speaking in a group to step up. We ask new folks to feel empowered to ask questions, to speak up, and to participate.

Welcome Back – A lot has happened since we last met (12/10)!

REPORT BACKS

1/6 Immigration Demo at The Oculus

Joan: Went well, was better attended than anticipated.

Hashtag: [#closethecamp](#), [#abolioshICE](#)

Swarm The Senate Washington DC Started 1/6/20

Wrolf: It started yesterday, and will go on daily until whenever. Led by L.A. Kauffman, and Laurie Arbeiter. On Thursday about 29 people turned out. Capitol police were uncooperative. Protestors are not allowed to carry signs or chant; they are working with T shirts and face and hand paint.

No busts. Website: www.Remove45.org They want more people to participate.

UPCOMING ACTIONS

Federalist Society NYC Annual Gala January 16 @ 5:30 Metropolitan Club: 60th Street and 5th Ave.

Jamie: Nikki Haley is the speaker. The Federalist Society is packing the courts. They have falsely been designated as a 501c3 as an “educational organization”. Further discussion tonight and at Actions tomorrow.

Complicated message: We know what you are up to, and you are packing the courts and that is not what your mandate is. We will end the action when people stop arriving.

Plan: Either stand still in a string and shame people who enter, or if many activists attend, there will be a moving picket.

Question asked about the Proud Boys: they have not typically showed up at galas. We will respond as we do to hecklers. A good number of people from the floor said they could participate.

Climate Action Group updates

Claire:

Action #1: **January 23, 12:30-2:00** at Chase Headquarters (390 Madison) inside lobby.

RaR has become the prime entity to focus on Chase which is the largest banking investor in fossil fuels; we have vivid photographs of climate disaster

Slogans: “Chase funds climate crimes”

Question: A flyer indoors for Chase employees? Response: there is another movement in which people cut up their cards at Chase. #cutthecard.

Action #2: Pop-up actions at Chase branches; this will require a few people with banners and signs. To be decided: same day each week, or different days?

These will be non-arrest events

This will be a FB event; the goal is to compare effectiveness with non-FB events.

Ask for \$400.

RaR voted to endorse Actions #1 and #2

RaR voted to release \$400 to these actions.

Sandy: National (as opposed to NY based) Chase initiatives

“Drown Jamie Diamond in paper”: Goal is to send thousands of letters to Diamond on Jan 20. A large number of members agreed to write letters; Sandy will print out letters to bring to next RaR meeting.

Albany legislative issues

Katrina: Met Council for Housing. Thursday 1/9 trip to Albany. Poor People’s Campaign is sending busses leaving at 6:15 AM

Mary H: True Blue is meeting tomorrow Weds 1/8 at 7 pm; 99 Greenwich Street, 9th floor

Budget justice: raising taxes to cover needs. Thanks to Cuomo we have a 2% cap.

Donna: Meeting tomorrow 1/8 in Albany: TPP. Focus will be on long term prison sentences. On Jan 20 there will be a trip up focusing on solitary confinement.

Facilitation announcements; rent collected; January tasks

Discussion of Trump's assassination of Qasem Soleimani and warmongering with Iran, Impeachment, and Senate Trial – how and where do we focus?

Jamie: Actions will propose an action Saturday 1/11. Original plan (developed in early December) was to focus on all the reasons that he should be impeached. Actions has not met for a long time, so we need to refocus following the assassination of Soleimani.

Discussion:

- Under Reagan assassination was made illegal.
- We need to do something big. March this past Saturday was underwhelming, not huge, and didn't get coverage.
- Different perspective: Saturday march was large. But speakers were problematic, pushing their particular agendas; we need to work on our messaging.
- Worries about the draft: kids 18 or over have been made to register.
- Soleimani is a complicated, horrible person who has killed many people himself.
- Dread of impending war. Action is necessary.
- Administration members who want war, Pompeo, Bolton. Trump is skittish about war; demonstration could make a difference.
- We are in war all the time: we are in a 100 years war.
- Public opinion is against quagmires. Trump is aware of that. More progressive Democratic candidates are talking about endless wars, and military industrial complex. We should be taking on Republicans for being warmongers, destroying healthcare, women's rights, LGBTQ rights.
- Reluctance to be in coalition with UNAC.
- This war is about impeachment and removal. Strategy: link this to assassination in Iran. A larger coalition will take time to develop, of the kind that Leslie Cagan does.
- "War is not inevitable". This could be a good organizing principle. Take this to different groups, like Democratic Clubs.
- The press is now focusing on war and not on impeachment; this is exactly what press did in Iraq; take this directly to the media: NY Times is doing its both sides of the question.
- Different perspective: There is a "gentleman's agreement" among the press not to cover protests against the media.
- January 25 Global protest: No War on Iran. There are various sectarian groups leading, but also long term anti-war and pacifist groups. Should we focus on bringing in non-sectarian speakers?
- Call for a demonstration this Thursday 1/9 (Move On, Indivisible)
- We do small targeted actions very effectively.

- *Is there some kind of synthesis?*
- Do not include the impeachment message: keep the message clear and simple: No war in Iran.
- One option: demand that the assassination of Soleimani go to Congress for hearings.
- It is problematic to work in coalition with entities that reject voting.
- Ideas: Trump Tower; take over steps of Trump Hotel, Grand Central or other public space.
- There was consensus in the group for immediate action:
- What about Martin Luther King Day? Too far away/too soon. Concerns about coopting MLK day. What about collaborating with Black Lives Matter or other groups?
- *Focus on proposals/recommendations*
 - Show up at Schumer's office at 5 and go to Grand Central
 - Direct action inside a location and larger outside demo
 - Trump Tower targeted action: tags Trump directly, and gets media attention.
 - Federal Hall by the George Washington statue
 - Start at Grand Central and then march perhaps to Trump Tower
 - Trump focused action: CD action. Remove Trump.
- Presidents Day 2/16, or 2/4: the State of the Union address.
- Times Square subway station; tie in with War Resisters League and Black Lives Matter
- **Actions Committee will discuss this further: 256 West 38 at 6 pm Weds**

NEW RISE AND RESIST ACTIONS

Saturday 1/11 2 pm. Proposed Removal demo – do we need to address additional issues (see above)?

Jamie: Last Actions meeting was a while ago. "Remove" action inside Trump Tower discussed. Is this still relevant? Appeared to be agreement that it is. Will be elaborated in Actions Committee.

Rules: Trump Tower is still the corporate headquarters, though Trump may be moving out. It is a public space. No signs, no chanting. You are not trespassing until they ask you to leave.

RaR voted to support this action.

Jay W: Proposed Action for **Saturday before Presidents Day, 2/15/20**. Presidency was buried, and now the presidency has to be resurrected. Light, fun action. If interested in working with him, contact Jayw.walker@gmail.com

Participation in the Women's March 11/18 in NYC

Last year there were three marches in NYC: 2019 review

Women's Alliance

Women's March: Foley Square (NY contingent)

Women's Disability Action March.

Women's March planning: focus on getting out the vote

Jennifer B. asks people not to support the Women's March Alliance and to speak out against it.

Gays against Guns: bus leaves at 4:30 am for a day trip to Washington 1/18/20

It will be an inclusive march. If you want to do it, sign up soon.

Straw poll: should RaR be involved in a women's march? Yes.

Mary Ellen volunteered to organize the RaR contingent of the NYC Women's March

RaR voted to participate in the Foley Square women's march with Mary Ellen organizing

FINANCE

Sue: We collected \$217, \$12800, increase of \$1500 from last meeting

We got an award of \$2000 from the Tides Foundation.

Finance is considering how to approach Tides to acknowledge the foundation's support.

We raised \$1200 for the court fees from the action in front of Trump Hotel (date), which exceeded our \$1000 request.

NON RISE AND RESIST ACTIONS AND EVENTS

David Carlson: NY Health Act; we are in a good position to pass it. Contact your representative to support the NY Health Act. Send to your friends.

RaR voted to endorse the NY Health Act after it is approved by the Health Committee

Jennifer reported that MTA formed a new committee on disability, and agreed to build 70 new elevators across the boros.

Katrina: Memorial for Kitty in Zucotti Park Sunday, Jan 19, 5:30 to 8:30

RISE AND RESIST