

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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Notes - Alexandra **Facilitators** - Maryellen and Elka

Annual Board meeting 2/25/20 6pm to 7pm/elections results

Jon:

Thank you to Jay W. and Stu W who are leaving the board.

Elected to the Board: Jon Walker, Donna Gould, Mary Hawkins, Joan Boyle, Jennifer Van Dyck, Elka Krajewska, Kellen Gold and Peter Rooney. The President is Jon Walker, Secretary is Joan Boyle, and Treasurer is Mary Hawkins.

Kevin FitzGerald had expressed interest in serving on the Board but did not attend the meeting. Copies of the Rise and Resist Inc Bylaws were provided to new members.

The next Annual Meeting is scheduled for October 2020.

REPORT BACKS

Chase Bank branch protest pop-up action Saturday 2/18; 72nd and Lexington

Paul: Streets were empty, 8 RaR members, and some people who wanted to join us on a very slow day.

Next Chase action: 8th Ave between 39th and 40th; this Saturday, 2/29, at noon

Chase investors Day 7AM 2/25

Zack

150 of Chase's top investors came.

150 resisters came, 350, Rainforest Action Network, Rev. Billy's choir, Rise and Resist; great coordination. It was a terrific action.

People were very flexible and responsive to the changing situation.

John discussed the public space, which Chase attempted to shut down entirely; then with pushback, it proposed more relaxed rules – still not conforming to the law; then today they shut everything down with barricades.

One group tried to challenge the barricade, then it split off to other entrances.

Many employees were told not to come to work today; some investors were ducking under people's arms to get in.

Lynn: JPM put out an announcement that it is not going to drill in the Arctic. No further investments in pure coal companies. But there are many mixed companies. Bloomberg business Reporter reported on the environmentalists in action.

Recap of Actions Committee from last Weds 2/19/20 Action Committee mini-report back on “Direct Action Post Impeachment/Acquittal”

John

- Words/themes: fatigue, democracy, direct action, posters, CD's
- Voter suppression; how do we act on that
- We need to update our flyers, so that we are not just saying call your senator; more action items; how do we bring people in to the movement. Compassion fatigue related to normalizations; responding to questions about whether CD works. Ray: Why are people not hitting the streets.
How can I help: ask what do you like to do? People get engaged because of why we do things.
- Flip the Senate: how do we do that
- Pop-up demos, we need to resist normalization.

We have a new space for Actions Committee: 370 7th Ave RWDSU offices 14th floor: 6 to 8 pm Wednesdays.

Court appearances for the Trump Acquittal 8 (mostly good news!).

Jamie: Karin got picked off, and 8 got arrested in solidarity. On 2/24/20 everyone went to court: all but one case was dismissed because of paperwork incorrectness. Richard Prins, whose paperwork was done correctly, got ACD with no community service

Upcoming Actions:

Immigration Vigils – 2/27 5:30PM Grand Central ICE OUT OF NYC.

Donna: Grand Central at 5:30 Feb 27

Next vigil is 5:30 pm 3/19 at the Oculus

Thursday, 3/12 is the Immokalee workers march: boycott Wendy's. We are invited to join them on the 12th; they will have a support vehicle; **plan is to assemble at Union Square on Thursday, 3/12; 5pm.** They have been working on this for years; There is a FB page. They will come to present at the RaR meeting next week.

Elections Committee Report: Make Billionaires Pay; Housing Justice for All forum held Thursday 2/20

Stu: This is a new movement in NY, made up of a coalition of social justice groups. Designed to address the question about why the government can't afford anything. 112 billionaires here in NYC. NYC is the 11th largest economy in the world. Property tax is a regressive tax which burdens people unfairly.

14 items would raise \$35 billion a year

1. Billionaire Wealth Tax
2. Pied a terre tax
3. Ultra Millionaire income tax
4. Stock buyback corporate greed tax
5. Carried Interest Fairness Fee
6. Corporate Tax Reform for Multinational Corporations
7. Luxury Land Tax (Hudson Yards)
8. CEO Pay Gap Tax on Big Business
9. Stop Subsidies for Real Estate Billionaires

10. Corporate Landlord Tax
11. 21st C Bank Tax
12. Restore Yachts and Jets Tax
13. Data Tax on Digital Advertising
14. Stock Transfer Tax

Many senators are signing on in a surprising way.

Livvie: Make billionaires pay and budget justice group: theme is that we are all in this together. There will be a **march on Saturday, 2/29; starts at 2pm 103 and Fifth (1216 Fifth Ave.)**

Report Back on Speakers at General Meeting

Donna and Ray: Survey conducted by Sandy indicated that some members wanted speakers; a committee was formed, which included: Cotter, Ray, Jackie, (and others); topics which members selected were rank ordered; speakers will be selected based on timeliness and availability. This is the list that is emerging so far.

Frequency: **It seemed that first Tuesday of the month??** might be a good predictable frequency for speakers.

1. Immokalee workers
2. What is happening on the border, immigration;
3. Climate emergency, green new deal, nuclear energy
4. Ann Northrop: How to interact and speak with the media
5. Coalition work around fair elections
6. Gender and sexuality
7. No new Jails
8. Solitary Confinement
9. Medicare for all
10. Poor People's Campaign (PPC)
11. What the activists in DC did: LA Kauffman
12. Progressive bills in Albany
13. How to be more like Hong Kong
14. Working with Gays and Guns
15. Budget justice
16. Fox News and media

Concerns about whether speakers would be compelling/vivid; the speakers' group will work hard to make this work well. It was suggested that speakers and their topics would be posted in advance.

Facilitation announcements: Rent and March tasks

NEW ACTIONS

Cricket Valley: This discussion was postponed to next week

Presence at City Hall ICE Oversight Press Conference Friday 2/28; arrive at 9 am.

Stu: This is initiated by New Sanctuary Coalition; We will stand behind them with props; Press conference at 9 am to 12 pm, prior to 10 am City Council Hearing;

Jamie this can be put on FB

RaR voted to endorse this action

Continued floor discussion on goals and targets

Maryellen and Elke

Members were asked to list a goal they would want for Rise and Resist.

Here are the goals members listed:

- Make ourselves visible with clear and thoughtful messages to represent ourselves as a strong community;
- Action bringing attention to a unified theory of 3 existential threats:
 - o demise of democratic institutions
 - o climate catastrophe
 - o war/prison based economy – nuclear weapons
- Get rid of Barr via impeachment, disbarment, courts to avoid dictatorship....
- Respond to Trump actions every time some new horror is; presented....Immigration is a key reflection of the Trump (vision?) of what America “is”;
- To persist in resisting normalization of the abnormal, the corrupt, the inhumane at the state and Federal level;
- More focus on “criminal Justice” issues: bail, solitary, parole, prison. Coalition by joining into actions being organized by groups already working on these issues and adding our own interest in direct action to this. Keep Hitting the Streets:
- To become connected to a political, effective community;
- To protest the hijacking of the judicial system by the Trump administration; protest Barr; protest Trump’s corruption of the National Security Agency by hiring unqualified people, tweeting about court cases, judges and jurors;
- To strategically highlight the worst impulses and actions of Donald Trump and his administration in order to remind the public at large of the true stakes of this election;
- Remove Trump as we build the world we want;
- Let’s get a flag;
- Remove Trump and highlight his immigration policies and corruption/authoritarianism;
- Move the needle on preventing a 2nd term for Trump in any and every way possible;
- Get ready for November election and transition of power (we hope);
- Voter suppression:
- Gerrymandering; plan an action; voting rights;
- Attack white supremacy.

Maryellen made the following recommendations:

- People are drawn to Rise and Resist not because of what we do, but because of why we do it. We need to be very clear about why we do things.
- Keep goals specific, so that we can determine: Have we reached the goal?
- Figure out objectives
- Figure out tactics: what
- Who are we going to target? What is our audience?
- Support the cause of justice all the time: incarceration, environment, inequality.

Maryellen and Elke felt that a major theme was to “**Restore Democracy.**” Member debate about the fact that the US has never been a democracy moved the **goal** to “**Create Democracy**”

- **Objective:** Flip the Senate
- How do we **measure** success: Remove 11 senators
- **Timeline:** 6 months
- **Objective:** Take money out of state and Federal campaigns

- **Objective:** Voter suppression
- **Objective:** Build a visible resistance
 - There was disagreement over this: Maryellen felt this was a tactic; Jamie felt that this was an objective related to the goal of creating democracy.

Finance

Robert: We raised \$127; we have in the bank \$14800, which is a decrease of \$300 from last week.

Non Rise and Resist announcements

Robert C:

1. Robert has worked with **Joanna Macy**; she worked with people in Chernobyl to help them use their despair to move into effective action. Please contact Robert if you are interested in joining **his training on Saturday, March 21**, which is based on her work and is primarily directed to members of Actions Committee. He and Kathleen Sullivan will be co-leading.
2. **St. Pat's for All parade; Sunday March 1, 12 noon. Route: 43 St. & Skillman Ave to 58 St. & Woodside Ave in Queens.** This parade is inclusive, and celebrates the diversity of the Irish and Irish American communities of New York. Location:
3. **NYC World Conference for Disarmament, Peace, Climate & Justice at Riverside Church 4/24-4/26;** register with this link:

<https://actionnetwork.org/events/nyc-world-conference-for-disarmament-peace-climate-justice>

Donna:

1. **Weds, 2/26, 6:30 am: bus to Albany from Union Square: focus on drug law reform.**
2. **Thursday 3/5-3/8: Beyond the Bars Conference on Jails: Columbia University: School of Social Work, 1255 Amsterdam Ave., New York, NY 10027. Program is free, but you must register for each day you want to attend.** Screening Thursday evening, Events Friday and Saturday; Justice and education. Mass incarceration, elections in relation to these issues.
3. **Saturday 6/20 9:30 to 11 am Mass Poor People's Assembly and Moral march on Washington**
Middle Collegiate Church 112 Second Ave. Check again.

8:45-9:00: Time to wrap up and schmooze.

Rise and Resist