

Rise and Resist General Meeting 3.3.2020

Rise and Resist Contact Information

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 - 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

REPORT BACKS

Chase Bank branch protest pop-up action, upcoming branch actions and demo tweaks.

Sandy: There have been weekly actions every Saturday at Chase Branches. Goal: stop the money pipeline to fossil fuels.

We have had 4 of these actions: Tweaks: they will start at 1 pm. We need 8 to 10 people per action; we have had 6 to 7. We are now seeking heavily trafficked locations. Sign-up sheet was handed out. FB page: Stop Chase Climate Crimes.

Next action will be 73rd and Broadway Saturday 3/7 at 1 pm.

Immigration vigil (2/27) at Grand Central.

Donna

Next vigil is Thursday 3/19 5:30PM at the Oculus; this is because of the Immokalee Workers march-4PM in Union Square on 3/12

Robert C suggested: When someone tries to engage in opposition, reply, "I can listen to you but I am holding silent vigil."

Elka said that the new flyers were very useful.

Friday February 29 Immigration Rally, steps of City Hall.

Judith: Innocent civilian shot by policeman was the trigger, but we have been very concerned about treatment of immigrants; and policies in hospitals. Wonderful action, holding banners behind press conference on steps of City Hall. Somewhat small attendance.

Hearing in City Hall went to 4 pm. Judith stayed for the whole hearing! Amazing cross section of the community; different panels; law makers, medical personnel, citizens all present, and asking for inquiry.

Elections/Budget Justice/Bail Reform

Stu: Action on Saturday on Budget Justice; march from 5th and 103 to Bloomberg's office. Tax the rich so that we can get the services we need.

Indivisible Letter to Andrea Stewart Cousins

Strong majority of NY'ers are in favor of taxing the rich. Stewart Cousins is a roadblock VOCAL has drafted the letter.

- End austerity budgeting
- Stop give-aways to huge corporations

Rise and Resist voted to approve signing this letter.

NEW ACTIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Bail reform

Jodi: Judges have historically done a terrible job setting bail justly.

Call your state senators and assembly people to say you oppose any rollbacks to bail reform.

Go to your local community board meetings, or police precincts. The month of March is essential because the budget comes up in April.

Elevator Actions –

Resist MTA's Appeal of Judge's motion to reject MTA delays to subway station access.

Weds 3/11 Rally at 12:30 PM to 3:30; hearing is at 2 pm – 27 Madison Ave. (24th St.)

Sacha

Judge Hagler, ruling from the bench, refused to accept delays proposed by MTA to increase access. The MTA is attempting to dismiss the judge's motion.

Mary H suggestion: use resistbot; through FB Messenger. "resist.MTA"

Ongoing campaign, no vote necessary.

Wednesday 3/11 Riders Alliance 11AM Hoyt-Schermerhorn A/C/G Station, and other stations citywide

Sasha

Citywide petitioning at many subway stations that are not accessible. MTA makes promises but does not legally commit.

Rise and Resist voted to endorse this action.

COALITION OF IMMOKALEE WORKERS PRESENTATION

Lupe Gonzalo presenting, Uriel Perez translating from Spanish to English and presenting Farmworker led human rights organization

We have worked for 25 years for better human rights, working conditions, farmworkers' dignity and treatment of women. Farmworkers have faced wage theft, gender based violence, modern day slavery.

Workers work underneath managers (crew leaders); they recruit farmworkers and take them to the fields where they work; they do not register the workers with the growers/farmers and have complete control over them.

Workers began organizing with marches, a hunger strike for 30 days. Marches to some of the crews' leaders; goal to put pressure on the growers and start a dialogue to figure out how to end the abuses. Growers were not interested. Journalists arrived and asked why this was happening. One journalist spoke to a grower. "A tractor does not tell a farmer how to farm." Farmers have not seen workers as human beings worthy of basic rights.

We decided to go up to the corporations: Walmart, Albertsons, Shopright, Kroegers, Publics. Fast Food: Wendy's, Burger King, TacoBell. These companies ask for best quality food, prices, but are not interested in the workers' human rights. They exercise considerable power.

In early 2001, we shifted our direction to these companies. We started the **Campaign for Fair Food**. First demand: pay 1 penny more for the bushel of tomatoes purchased. And that money goes to workers. Code of conduct drawn out by the workers: It includes rights to rest, water, no toleration for sexual abuse, or modern day slavery. Demand that Taco Bell only purchase from farms that subscribed to this code of conduct.

There was discussion of the role of Government: there are laws in the books protecting the workers. But the Labor Relations Board has never protected agricultural workers.

Customers/consumers can play a key role. We are often unaware of the conditions that the workers face. The corporations do not want this information to come out.

During the Taco Bell campaign; students and community groups at 25 different universities kicked out Taco Bell from their campuses. But greater leverage was needed. We knew that Taco Bell alone could not influence all the farms: There are 14 multibillion dollar corporations.

Jingles from McDonalds show that corporations are doing a hell of a job in terms of getting their ideology into people's heads. No one knew that the Imokole workers were being exploited. Eventually McD's agreed to all three workers demands in 2010. "Growers that once called us tractors wanted to work with us." The growers came to the table because it started costing money. 2011 we started implementing the Fair Food Program in Florida. Lupe and people like her educate the workers, and their responsibilities. For the first time: fresh water, bathrooms, shaded structures, women have the right to work free of the fear of gender-based violence.

The one company that would not conform to Fair Food Program demands is Wendy's. They went instead to Mexico. There was an expose, children of 7 years old were working on these farms. Mexican government had to intervene.

In 2018 Lupe and 100 other activists fasted for 5 days in NYC. Nelson Pelz, the head of Wendy's, works in Manhattan. Heidi Shauer, head spokesperson, accused these workers of co-opting the #metoo movement.

Hundreds of workers will be marching 20 miles. On March 12 we are calling for solidarity; we will meet at 4 pm at Union Square Park and walk for three miles.

Questions: How long did it take to achieve success? 2, 3, 4 years. In the Wendy's campaign we are on year 7. We started in 1993. Our first victory was not until 2004.

Florida is a right to work state, so this illustrates how hard it is to organize; agriculture depends on undocumented labor. As a result of the ban on immigrants, there is an expansion of temporary workers who have no rights.

Donna will hand out chants for this demo in English and Spanish in advance, so that we can practice.

New Actions

Monday, March 16 Cricket Valley action in Albany 12 pm NY State Capitol building Albany

Jodi Cricket Valley Action in winter 2019 shut down the plant for a day at a cost of several hundred thousand dollars. Transportation will be determined later; Donna will report back on this.

RaR voted to endorse this action.

NEW ACTIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Earth Day Week – Finance Day Thursday, 4/23

Stu: **50th anniversary of the first Earth Day.**

An environmental movement burgeoned: Clean Air and Water Acts, and much more

This will be a week of a lot of actions.

Focus on corporations and banks, especially Chase.

NY Stop the Money Pipeline, Rainforests Action Network, 350 Brooklyn, Friends of the Earth, Sunrise, Extinction Rebellion

Goal in planning: action that involves 1000's of people and a vague action

Day-long picket at Chase Headquarters. And a couple of dozen branches....Afterwards a march from headquarters to Blackrock, 55 East 52nd Street: major financial institution, and corporate influencer.

RaR voted to co-sponsor this April 23 action.

Manhattan Institute (right wing think tank) Honors the Federalist Society

Wednesday, 4/29 at Cipriani at 42nd Street Reception at 6:30, action starts at 6 pm.

Jamie

This year they are honoring: Federalist Society judges: Eugene Mayer and Leon Leo
RaR voted to sponsor this action.

Should there be a demo when/if Trump pardons Manafort, Stone, Flynn?

Jamie: Manafort is currently in jail; Flynn pleaded guilty and is trying to have his plea revoked; Stone is going through all these shenanigans.

RaR voted by Straw Poll to support the development of these demos.

Action Committee is meeting at 6pm Wednesdays, Retail Workers Union, but a different building. Please let Jamie know if you are interested in attending this meeting.

Request for endorsement of **United Against Racism and Facism (URAF) NYC rally demo Saturday 3/21**, Trump Hotel Columbus Circle 2 to 5 pm. Peaceful demonstration.

Racism has been legitimized in a way that it has not been before. Shootings, antisemitic attacks here and in Europe.

Goal to have one day in many countries, continents: Australia, Europe, US: Open the borders. Rally with speakers.

RaR voted to endorse this action.

FINANCE

Mary \$107 collected today, \$14,500 she reviewed ways that the money was spent
Mary announced that bags made from previous posters will soon be available.

NON RISE AND RESIST ACTIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Robert C: **March 4 community board meeting at Mt. Sinai 1000 10th Ave. 6:30 pm action.**
People in the neighborhood want the community to show up against NIMBY'ism.

17th anniversary of the invasion of Iraq

11 am, Thursday March 19, 26 Federal Plaza march to Borough of Manhattan Community College.

ACT UP photo shoot. T Style Magazine scheduled a photo shoot of the activists thirty years later. NY Times does not cover activism, Jamie disrupted the photo shoot
Of 150 aging AIDS activists when NY Times failed to cover the AIDS crisis, and continues not to cover activism. Chant was Fuck the New York Times.

RISE AND RESIST