Indivisible Brooklyn
Give a Damn (Sundays):
How to Start and Lead a Neighborhood Based Organizing Group

Overview:
Give A Damn (Sundays) is a neighborhood initiative designed to support connection, learning, and empowerment. The one-hour weekly meetings are a space to discuss pressing issues and take meaningful action. Each meeting starts with introductions, then a member leads the group in a discussion about an article, podcast etc. and then we share information about actions for the coming week.

Beyond activism, these meetings build a true sense of community—deepening connections and fostering mutual support. In a time of uncertainty, Give A Damn Sundays serve as both an act of resistance and a source of resilience. They offer a space where action replaces angst, where solidarity turns strangers into allies, and where the simple act of knowing and supporting one another becomes a powerful force for change.

Goals:

- Build community connections and a sense of safety
- Process what's going on
- Support neighbors to take action

Key Characteristics:

- Short – keep to one hour
- Regular – aim for every couple of weeks
- Low-commitment
- Casual – people can bring their own snack or coffee, let your house be messy
- Action-oriented – the host should make sure it remains supportive and not just a gripe-fest or worry fest

Meeting Structure:

- Introductions with an ice breaker
    - Name/which house you live in
    - First meeting icebreaker: What brought you here in this moment
    - Subsequent meetings – keep it positive and/or light
        - What made you feel hopeful this week?
        - What's your favorite hidden gem place to eat in the neighborhood?
- Introduce the idea: the best way to fight authoritarianism is to build local community. We want to keep each other safe, we want to support each other to

take action, and we want it to be fun and grounding, and we want to make it easier by offering ways to connect that are close to home.

- (Optional) Present a nugget of content. Indivisible Brooklyn can help with this. You could share Indivisible's approach to influencing elected officials, share information about your rights at protests, or learn about how people in other countries have resisted authoritarianism. At the first meeting, you could make a list of things people want to learn more about.
- Closing:
    - Does anyone have an action they want to tell us about?
    - Closing cheer or unifying call at the end, to leave on a high note.
        - We are the leaders!
        - The power of the people is stronger than the people in power!

Steps:

1. Find a couple of friends on the block and email them this idea. Gather this group to plan the first neighborhood gathering.
    a. One person can take initiative if it's taking too long to organize.
2. Pick a host and a time for a meeting. (It doesn't have to be on Sunday!)
3. Send an email.
4. Have the first meeting
    a. Let people know to invite other people on the block
5. Subsequent meetings
    a. Create a spreadsheet with rotating hosting
    b. Make a list of things people want to learn more about

Sample Email:

Block Gathering for a Free America

Hi neighbors,
What would you all think about finding a time in the next week to get together and talk about what we can do to oppose the rising authoritarianism? A friend of mine has been gathering neighbors on her block to talk about this, and has found it very inspiring and supportive. We could start with this group, or extend an invitation to others on the block who are looking to connect around this.
And, if you like the idea, would anyone want to host?
Thanks, and I look forward to seeing you soon,

Give a Damn (Sundays) was developed by Julie Peppito and her friends on her block. *Indivisible Brooklyn* is working to develop and connect Give a Damn Sundays Groups in Brooklyn. To express interest in hosting a neighborhood group

and connecting with others, please fill out this form (linked or use the QR code at right): https://forms.gle/aRPKavhr16As34KY6