Disability Justice Dialogue

- concern with productivism and toxic activist spaces
- worked with disability rights, justice is a learning curve
- wonder how it would be if had these frameworks as a young person with chronic illness
- consciousness of language, stereotypes
- how to move from individualistic self-care to community care interdependence
- how to unlearn ableism in different contexts, in organizing contexts
  - how can political work feel nourishing
- new to this, grateful for the opportunity to learn
- desirability
- disposability
- challenging notions of what/who is a worthwhile person
- inhumanity of work for many – physically, psychologically extractive
- difficulty of negotiating burnout
- capitalist individual resources and ownership, how to disrupt cycles
- we all have different capacities, what we can give
- different cultural notions of care and family networks
- podcast of host families with neurodivergent children, non-pathologizing
- what are examples of ways that disability justice is well integrated into organizing?
  - Dearth of good models
  - How to expand to welcome everyone’s contributions, or be more narrowly focused on single-minded goal – what are impacts?
- Go into monthly menstrual depression – didn’t have models of how to engage, now embrace this time as a gift to access deeper emotions, time when it is so clear that my body is not made to be in capitalist machine all the time
- May be possible to create conditions to live in another way
- Stigmas around particular mental illnesses, ways this is gendered – ways trauma is gendered
- People who have to take a break and feel like they can’t
- Health defined as ability to work
- Transactional
- Learning about
- Developing coping mechanisms – binaries not working, developing other identities, labeled multiple identity disorder
- What it would be like if could fully honor rhythms of body/mind and not show up to work, be on another non-linear pace
- What are we doing to create the world we want to live in now – shifting activism, expand ways to show up, participate in community
- Being, being together is a radical act
- Self-expression has to be fundamental to our lives
- Ways that race and class shape criminalization of disability
- Inspiring artist, multiply disabled, trans, whose self-healing is part of art, and activist art, contribution to spaces in ways that can’t always be in physically
• Goal of organizing to achieve goals, and to politicize resistance
• The body is political
• Ways disability is viewed in media, protest against the film “Me Before You”, with hashtag #liveboldly – narrative that life is not worth living
• Holding the complexity of how we need each other
• The paternalism of pity tone/language, inspiration porn
• Spaces beyond an access-framework
• Drag king community, where half the people were deaf, was one of the most inclusive spaces I’ve been a part of
• Dance troupe who sets agenda depending on who is there and how they’re doing
• Elementary school that was excellent at integrating different physicalities
• Wishing I had grown up with such radically inclusive community in school, and see all kind of people doing all kinds of things
• Special needs/ed has to be legitimized by the state and medical diagnosis
• Federal and medical definitions, labels, gatekeeping, labels
• As a female, knowing who what is “crazy” shifts with capitalist patriarchy
• Disabling structures of society
• Race pathologized
• Disability shifts simplistic understandings of privilege
• Ability in flux, how it may challenge identity politics
• The fear of becoming disabled and disposable
• As a white woman, can’t really feel the “be as you are, that is radical” – have heard the narrative and feel inspired, yet feel it doesn’t apply to me – activist voices internalized saying that’s not for you
• Ways these forms of social control and categories shift
• Checking out with sharing ways we challenge productivism
• Wendell Berry quote, fox making more tracks than necessary
• Saying yes to non-work relationship, holistic life
• Appreciating the process of grappling itself – the process as the work
• Notice and revel in beauty, gardening
• Question of sacrifice, though that’s not my imagination around disability, there’s some chafing there
• Making art
• As a teacher, giving kids time to doodle or do other expression