

## 01.22.2019 RAR Meeting Minutes

Facilitators: Ken, Jennifer V.D.

Notetaker: Jody

### Group contact information

- Website: [www.riseandresist.org](http://www.riseandresist.org)
- Email list signup <http://eepurl.com/cCzq1X>
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- Press email: [media@riseandresist.org](mailto:media@riseandresist.org)
- Meetings: Every Tuesday at 7pm

### Meeting Introduction

- Any members of law enforcement (none responded) any members of press (none responded), get off your phone, step up/step back, raise your hand and introduce yourself with pronouns, reading of the mission statement, introduced Elizabeth the ASL translator, metrocards available
- Introduced greeter (Cherie) - any new people speak to them

## **Report Backs**

### **The Oculus Action (Donna, Stu)**

- Continuation of similar actions "Seeking Asylum is not a Crime"
- Oculus was most successful of series of actions so far
- Big open space - ended up with 2 lines
- People were very enthusiastic and warm and happy we were doing this - got an ovation from a group
- Thinking of continuing this with weekly "Seeking Asylum is not a Crime" actions
- Hits all the cruelty buttons of the Trump administration
- Because of the shape of the Oculus people had space to look at what we were doing
- Next time we do it, please come
- There was a balcony people could look from - the optics were incredible
- We gave out 500 flyers
- What do you all think of a weekly or bi-weekly action like this? In Oculus or Grand Central or other indoor locations
- Comment: I'm in favor of a weekly action but I suggest we change days between Thursday and Friday
- Comment: One of the things we talked about at Comms is that we should have a specific action that people should take and include that in the flyer

- Comment: Will it always be at 5:30 pm? I can't get there that early
- A: It will last an hour
- Comment: might be good to vary times and days so you're not seeing the same people every time
- Comment: the photos look amazing - I wish I could be there but it was too early. Perhaps we could give out cards of what to do in case of ICE (In English, Spanish)
- **Straw poll on continuing these actions - most seem to be in favor**

#### **Women's Unity Rally at Foley Square** (comments from the floor)

- Wasn't that full at 9:30 am but it filled up quickly
- Lots of LGBTQ and trans flags
- Videos are available on the Facebook page
- Missed AOC, but saw some Rise and Resist people
- 10-12 RAR folks stood outside of 26 Federal Plaza - we were more visible that way
- Typical Foley Square experience

#### **Non-March for Disabled Women** (Jennifer B)

- It was a big success
- 300-400 people at least
- Press (we were on NY1 and WCBS)
- Occupied Grand Central
- Alexis and Jamie moved people all over
- 3-4 banners
- 100 signs from Laurie Arbeiter
- Leslie brought the Yes Men newspaper
- Thank you Martin and Mary for doing media
- There will be a video coming out on "Now This", probably tonight
- We're in touch with AOC - Jennifer has her assistant's contact info - she wants to meet
- It was too long - it should have been 1 hour to 1-½ hours
- Reached out to Women's March Alliance people but none of them would help
- Elevators for Everyone is meeting tomorrow - will see where to go from there
- Have a lot of initiative and a lot of power - Jennifer is burnt out but hopefully other people can work on moving this forward
- Wants to elevate the voices of trans and non-binary people - lots of crossover with people with autism and asperger's
- Replicate it during Reclaim Parade and the Disability Parade?
- Any other ideas?
- Need some policy things to take to AOC - let Jennifer know if you have ideas
- Comment: we have the Elevator Action Group - it focuses on the subway, etc, but do we want a disability justice group to help us with policy and also to help us with our own actions and accessibility?
- A: Jennifer VD can bring this up with Elevator Action Group

- Comment: Karen on Facebook suggested that this should be an annual event. The direct action aspect of this separated it from the march and the rally.
- Comment: thank you for getting ASL. Gale Brewer and Jumaane Williams were there.

## Upcoming Actions

### Arrest Trump - State of the Union Action - 1/29 (Jamie)

- Looks like Trump will be giving a speech of some sort - maybe on the 29th, maybe from the Senate
- Public action at the Trump Hotel
- 5:30-6:30 pm or 5-6 pm - to allow people time to get to the meeting
- Straw poll on timing - close vote, but slight edge for 5-6 pm
- More people will come if it's 5-6 pm
- There will be Facebook event for this - will have a banner and signs
- Meet on B'way side of Trump International Hotel (60th St and B'way)
- Q: What's going on with the people who aren't getting paid? I don't understand why the TSA workers don't all strike
- A: That's coming up on the agenda
- Comment: on the 29th there will be an all day bird dogging action with CPD in NYC. I will share this information with them.

### Demo if/when Trump Declares an Emergency to Build the Wall (Jamie)

- Facebook event is up for October 1st as a placeholder
- Share event with your friends - make sure it gets out
- Will work the same way as the Mueller action did:
  - If he declares the emergency before noon, we go out that day at 5:30 pm
  - If he declares it after noon, we go out the next day at 5:30 pm
  - Details for weekend on the facebook page

Action committee meeting Wednesday night 6-8 pm at UAW, 256 West 38th St, 12th floor to discuss all of these things

## Presentation by Judge McManus on Immigration Courts

### Intro (Maureen)

- Now retired Immigration Judge, has taught law, been in private practice
- 27 years as an immigration judge
- Here to answer questions about asylum
- Was one of the highest granting judges of Asylum

### Judge Peggy McManus

- Retired about a year ago - not because of Trump, but thankful that she could retire

- This is the first time that retired immigration judges have gotten together on an email chain - about 39 of them
- It's been interesting to be in touch with all of these judges
- Signed on to a complaint about how the interim AG was selected
- Current judges and DOJ employees are not allowed to comment on anything going on so...
- Don't get to see an immigration judge unless you're already in trouble - caught at border, overstayed visa, applied for asylum
- People can apply based on marriage, can apply for waivers
- Judges review if someone applies for TPS and it's denied
- Detention is not within judge's purview
- People used to be able to get parole if they don't have a bond - not any longer
- Fewer and fewer people now are eligible for bonds
- People detained at the border often fall through the cracks - the contractors probably don't have people's best interests in mind
- Detention facilities are not that great - she did tours to the border, Elizabeth, NJ, the one in NYC
- Recently National Immigration Lawyer Association - gave opportunity to act as mentors to immigration lawyers
- Detained people here without families - get very depressed - Friends First helps people in detention in Elizabeth, NJ (FirstFriendNJNY.org)
  - Provide paper and envelopes to detainees
- Quotas are the big obstacles in front of immigration judges as well as continued interference of DOJ/AG.
  - Interfering with well settled case law - no one has interfered as much as the extent of the current administration
  - Message is always "there should be due process, but..."
  - New judges are on probation for the first 2 years, so they can be fired. Unclear how that will play out
- Important to educate people that seeking asylum is not a crime
- Judges have to obey the law and right now the law isn't very generous to asylum seekers
- Everything has just gotten more controversial and adversarial
- Lots of people there are still trying to do the right thing pursuant to the law. In general, the judges are being fair.
- There was a concern that lots of trial attorneys are being appointed - she doesn't think that's an issue - you can never tell how people will be when they're on the bench.
- Q: How are you managing to get info out to the press about this? This really needs to be exposed. Do you have any plans to try to get Congress to investigate this?
- A: The press is contacting us because they can't talk to sitting judges. We're not seeking them, they're seeking us. We've been on radio, NY1, a lot of publications. We haven't contacted congress as a group - Congress is probably aware of what we've published.

- Q: What procedurally happens when the pressure comes down?
- A: The trial attorneys who work for the DOJ were the ones who took harder positions. The judges are not told what to do aside from the AG changing the law.
- Q: Thank you for being here and thank you for your continuing service. The AG can by fiat overrule immigration cases?
- A: The judges are not independent - they've been trying for years to turn immigration into Article 1 court. That's a long and expensive process (to create the article 1 court)
- Q: What are the things that a direct action group can do to interfere with deportations?
- A: It's not that easy to do. Asylum hearings are closed if the respondent doesn't want it open to the public. Go to hearings, lobby.
- Q: I'm an engineer - I don't know a lot about the law. How can people without legal knowledge help?
- A: During the Muslim ban, a lot of people showed up at JFK.
- Q: What can do to move the Article 1 court aspect forward?
- A: There's a group of people working on that and there would be a lot of benefits to that happening. I'll send you info.
- Q: It seems to me that we're not accustomed to women and children trying to come in - that it's been mostly men over the years. How is it that in Central America with a couple wealthy countries and a couple of countries that are falling apart. Why aren't we spending more time trying to solve the problems in those countries? Is there any interest in starting at the source?
- A: You're talking to the wrong person. I don't know the answer to that.
- Q: Do you know anything about ICE and NYS courtrooms
- A: I don't know much about that - at 26 Federal Plaza, they can't detain anyone in the courtrooms but they can in the hallways, etc.

## **Rent collection**

Has anyone new come in since the beginning of the meeting? Cherie will give you info

## **List of tasks for February** - Donna will pass list around

- 5 tasks for each meeting - note-taking, greeting, opening and closing, slides

## **Read and Resist** - Saturday, January 26 at noon at LGBT Center

- Good and Mad by Rebecca Traister
- Come even if you haven't gotten through the whole book

## **New Actions**

### **Elevator Action Group** (Jennifer VD)

- Meeting tomorrow (Wednesday) 5:30-7 pm at Google, 8th Ave and 15th St
- See Jennifer if you need more info - will meet in the lobby to get signed in

### **Proposal for 50 subway stations in 5 years - Fast Forward plan**

- List of priorities for 50 stations being presented
- January 31st at 11 am at Lexington and 60th St
- **Been approved as a RAR Action (with another group)**
- Want to print more stickers for the action
- It will be less than \$200
- Comment: If stickers have Rise and Resist on them - we could get fined if they are put on public property
- A: Thank you for pointing that out
- Q: Is there a way to find out if we can avoid paying tax on this since we're a non-profit
- A: We do not pay corporate tax but we do pay sales tax.
- Comment: We could make it clear that we do not encourage people to put the stickers on public property.

### **Government Shutdown Discussion**

- I have very limited knowledge about this but I don't understand why everyone is just not walking out: TSA, Air Traffic Control, etc. If they all walked out this would be over in 5 minutes.
- It's scary that people feel so demoralized that they'll put up with this.
- For a lot of these unions that represent these employees, it's likely illegal for them to call strikes. The people could do wildcat strikes, but that will get result in them getting fired. So let's be understanding
- There are two calls for action:
  - Tomorrow at noon: Occupy the Hart Office Building in Washington DC being organized by CPD, Birddog Nation and Labor Unions - RAR will help amplify. There's not a bus coming from NYC, but you'd have to find your own way there. If it's still going on next week, there will likely be a bus from NYC.
  - Friday - local protests all over the country. There's something in NY but it seems like more support for union members than a big action.
- I think the reason that there haven't been more demos is that there will probably be some icky compromise and it would be hard for us to go out on the street and call for that. How do you protest the unfairness for gov't employees and those who rely on gov't programs, without supporting that icky compromise.
  - Section 8 housing and food stamps will start to affect people
  - How do you structure a demo and a demand to reopen the gov't?
- MoveOn.org put out a call today for protests on 1/29 at your nearest Senator office
- Planning on voting on 2 bills in the Senate today - one with lots of awful immigration stuff and the CR bill that Pelosi had passed in the House. Hope is the second will pass with enough to override Trump veto
- Friday - indoor rally to join 2 unions for resources and morale boost
  - Indoor Rally/Solidarity with Federal Workers - 87 Lafayette Street, 4:30-7:30 pm
  - More press they get, the more pressure it puts on the government
- What are we demanding?

- We're not going to negotiate - we're not going to hold the gov't workers compromise. Open the government now because people are being hurt. Calls for a general strike - we have weak unions so it's hard to pull off. The general public should create more broad action

### **Environmental Action Group (Jonathan, Stu)**

- Had first meeting last night
- Working on stuff with Green New Deal
- Working on stuff at state level
- 13-year old sitting in at the UN every Friday - working on student strike for March 13th - will support that
- Extinction Rebellion - progressive group and they're moving fast
  - They began in England in October - by mid-November they had a phenomenal action blocking every bridge in London
  - Mayor of London has agreed to ending all carbon emissions by 2030
  - January 26 (this Saturday) will be a worldwide day of action in every location - theme is the shit has hit the fan
  - They're calling for total emission reduction (zero emissions) by 2025 - model is WWII - we weren't ready for that but we got it together
    - Climate politics are non-negotiable
  - This Saturday - large scale action - would be great if Rise and Resist members could show up
    - There will be a risk of arrest aspect
    - They're meeting at 1 pm at 59th Street and 5th Ave (SE Corner of Central Park)
    - RAR will meet at 12:45 pm in front of the Paris Theater
    - Wear neon clothing, bring signage
    - They're having 2 poster parties and 1 more CD training
    - There will be a rally and a march and then the arrestable action
    - You can fill out the form for CD and then decide not to
    - Important to show up for this
    - This is also an opportunity for us to check out Extinction Rebellion - it's building fast
    - Jonathan and Stu have handouts with more info
  - Q: Do you want an endorsement?
  - A: I don't think we can because they're not fully releasing info
  - Comment: One of the things that RAR Media does is share info about actions like this that they think people will be interested in
  - Comment: I have to question why there's no black people and Latinos in this group - you need to do a better job of outreach.
  - Comment: You're interrupting our meeting and not following our process. What is your comment about the Environmental Action Group?
  - Comment: Do you want to start a working group on this topic?

- Sign up sheet for Environmental Action Group is going around
- Comment: Are any of the transportation groups like TransAlt, etc, involved in this?
- A: I don't know if they are - this group is very progressive and I don't know if they've signed on
- Environmental Action Group will meet Mondays at location TBD at 7 pm

#### **Finance (Robert)**

- \$13k+ balance in the account

#### **Comms (Andy, Dann, Martin)**

- 2 weeks from today, we are moving back to the People's Forum - February 5
- We had some great communication with AOC prior to the Non-March - we reached out after and they shared our post about the protest from AOC's facebook page - it gave us a big boost and included the message about disability justice.
- We were discussing sending them a couple of RAR shirts - what do people think of that since she's a politician
- Meet every Tuesday at 6pm
- There was a blog published but it was abandoned - would like to resurrect efforts - email [media@riseandresist.org](mailto:media@riseandresist.org)
- Comment: The reason AOC didn't come to the rally because she was being chased by paparazzi, and they decided that Grand Central was too crazy

#### **Non Rise and Resist Actions**

- Elections Group (Harris, Clair) - Reproductive Health Act is now law in NYS - NY is building itself up and becoming more progressive
- Single Payer NYS Health Act - two hour panel - NYC Bar Association - see their website for more info
  - Thursday, Jan 31 from 11-1
- Postcard Party - Monday at 7-8:30 pm
  - 209 East 56th St, ask for Rachel.
- On Common Ground - panel discussion
  - Immokalee Workers - Food Workers Alliance
  - Monday, Jan 28 7 pm Church of St Ignatius Loyola
  - 980 Park Ave, NYC
- Queering Pride/Reclaim Pride, CUNY Graduate Center, 5th Ave between 34th St and 35th St
  - Wednesday nights 7-9 pm
  - There will be a march on the same day as the corporate Pride parade
  - Endorse on their [website](#)
- 1/26 1-4 pm - the Crisis of the Whitney is Just Beginning
  - Frederick Rose Auditorium, 41 Cooper Square
  - Hosted by Decolonize this Place



- Focus on Warren Kanders, board member who makes tear gas - get him off the board
- Long term goal to get away from big money in cultural institutions
- If you didn't get a copy of the Yes Men's satire of The Washington Post, please get one and read it. It's also online.
  - Can we invite LA Kaufmann to come in and take us through it?

If you need metrocards to get to and from meetings and actions, see Kellen. He can also refill if you have old ones that need refilling

Meeting adjourned!

### Rise And Resist ###