

RAR Minutes

03.06.2018

Facilitators: Jennifer, Jeanne

Timekeeper: none

Notes: Jody

Group contact information

- Website: www.riseandresist.org
- Email list signup <http://eepurl.com/cCzq1X>
- Twitter: [www.twitter.com/RiseandResistNY](https://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 Church of the Village, 201 W 13th St.

Meeting Notes

- Welcome/Introduction: reading of mission statement, are there any police in the room (none responded), are there working journalists in the room (none responded), step up/step back, introduce self with pronouns, intro of greeter (Rachel), any new attendees?, introduction of helper (Elka)
- Elections Group (Libby, Nora)
 - Reporting back from Saturday morning: Diane Savino was keynote speaker at middle school conference at UFT. Elections Group spoke to about 100 people and provided flyers, had time to share information with people individually. Libby produced flyer that was specific to education and what the IDC had done. Felt it was quite effective.
- Elevator action group (Jennifer)
 - One of the EAG allies is suing the MTA.
 - Rally took place outside the courthouse - about 50 people were there.
 - Rally outside and then went to the courtroom. The judge was deciding whether to let the case proceed or to dismiss it. About 30-40 wheelchair users in the tiny courtroom; the judge was astounded.
 - The judge was highly sympathetic but there are some by-the-book legal issues that would cause him to make a precedent and he wasn't sure if he

wanted to do that. He asked both sides to meet for a settlement conference.

- Suing under the New York Human Rights Law. The MTA argues it's not discrimination. The settlement meeting is set for May.
- Great press from *The Daily News*

- Impeach Actions

- Last week's Impeach action (Martin)
 - In front of Trump Tower
 - There were counter protestors there. Please ignore them
 - Asking for new chants for Impeach
- This week's impeach action (Martin)
 - 100 reasons for impeachment
 - At Union Square, 14th Street
 - Will start rolling reasons out via social media - please share
- March 15 - emoluments
- March 29 - immigration
- March 22 - Healthcare (Mark H, Mark M)
 - Anniversary of 2010 signing of the ACA
 - Groups around the country are doing actions around the anniversary date
 - Will develop a bill of particulars on how he's undermining or violating the laws established by the ACA
 - Violating existing Medicaid law
 - Will explore creating a pop-up clinic in the street - this is what's going to happen when people lose their healthcare
 - Possibly in front of Harlem Hospital
 - Come talk to them if you have any thoughts on impeachable actions relating to healthcare
- April 5 - Russia (Philip, Eve)
 - Make case against impeachment from Putin's point of view
 - Will have a Putin and some bots (fake social media profiles)
 - Signs with tweets about making America Great
 - Working on location - thought about Russian embassy but not much foot traffic
 - Bots will be made out of cardboard and painted silver
 - Looking for space to paint
 - Comment: maybe Robert Jackson will allow them to use his space

- Looking for vehicle to get costumes from painting place to action - ideally a van (SUV will be too small)
 - They are asking for \$400
 - Q: Why do they need the additional \$200 over the usual allotment of \$200
 - A: The bot costumes can't just be salvaged cardboard and they need extra large sizes
 - Q: have they considered fur hats for the bots?
 - Q: Do they have any concerns that the bots are a distraction from the actual issues as the use of bots is not illegal?
 - A: The bots are intended to be a catchy visual thing. Congress approved sanctions on Russia and Trump is not doing anything about it.
 - Q: How many robot costumes?
 - A: 4-6
 - Comment: point of information - the Russian trolling is prohibited by federal law
 - Comment: it sounds fabulous
 - **VOTE: Motion passed In favor of giving \$400**
 - These creative impeach actions are really appreciated; each action garners new twitter followers
 - Q: Now that daylight savings time is coming, should we reconsider the time?
 - A: That was turned down last time but maybe will look at it again in a couple of weeks
- Postcard Party (Rachel, Mary)
 - Report back - wrote 100 postcards
 - 50 of them were to Jesse Hamilton's constituents
 - 50 of them were to [unintelligible]
 - Will continue this - next one is Wednesday, March 28th from 7-9 at 209 East 56th Street, Apt 6B
 - Q: Can you provide an outline of the candidate being supported in the future?
 - A: Yes. Philip Spagnuolo won in New Hampshire - someone they wrote for in the past
 - GAG Meeting report back (Ken)
 - March 14th - walkout

- March 24th - Women's Action in DC - we would partner on
 - Action in DC on Friday, March 23rd - planning meeting has been scheduled
 - More details available on GAG website - GaysAgainstGuns.net
 - Ask Ken if you have any questions - kiddinthecity@gmail.com
 - April 20th - full day walkout - little trickier because of school kids
 - Planning meetings: March 8th, 7pm (242 West 38th Street), 6th fl - planning for Friday, March 23rd and Saturday, March 24th; and March 15th, TBD
 - Planning CD and non-arrestable actions
 - March 24th - there will be something happening here in NYC - with Sing Out Louise, GAG; those same components will happen in DC
 - GAG had people in Parkland talking to kids re Human Beings (figures in white with white veils) representing the 17 killed there; the kids asked that the Human Beings represent more beyond that - representing people killed by gun violence in all communities.
 - Looking for kids who might be willing to dress as Human Beings
 - GAG did photos around with GAG members and Human Beings - the ones in playgrounds were most affecting
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- Rent Collection
 - Greeter (Rachel) - anyone new?
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- Planned Parenthood Action from Saturday 3/3 (Leslie, Andy, Megan, Celia, Ed, Alexis) - with NYC for Abortion Rights
 - First Saturday of every month, a group of anti-choice people meet at the Old St Patrick's Cathedral and march to PP
 - Counter protest met in front of the church for a moving picket
 - Church has done some good work for immigrant communities
 - The anti-abortion people came out later than usual
 - Counter protest walked in front of them and slowed their progress
 - Clinic at corner of Bleecker and Mulberry; they usually stop close to the clinic
 - Counterprotest got there first and took their spot; police escorted the anti abortion people across the street
 - They were further away from patients than usual
 - They still interacted with patients; counterprotestors tried to get in the way of that

- This was endorsed last week after a pretty short convo; larger conversation took place on facebook
- Lots of photos and videos on social media; public so anyone can look them up
- Conversations on social media were mostly civil; only 2 comments deleted
- The anti-choice people did have a police escort
- The goal of slowing them down was to allow the window of time for patients to show up without protesters there
- It was great to see pro-choice people close to the clinic
- How do we signal that we're there on the side of the pro-choice people? Wear pink?
- This is the first time that RAR has been outnumbered by the other side in our actions - with more people they could have slowed them down more
- They had intended to make screens to block the anti abortion people from being seen by patients, but since they moved across the street, that couldn't happen. They are experimenting with different ways to handle this.
- Q: Does the Red Rose group exist in NY? They go into clinics with red roses and try to escort people out
- A: Let's focus on this action; find them later to discuss this if you'd like. The Education Corner in the newsletter last week had a piece about the Red Rose group.
- Q: What time does this action happen?
- A: The antis are there the First Saturday of every month. We can't sustain a counter protest every month. They do 40 Days for Life 2 x per year, so we respond 2-4x per year. NYC for Abortion Rights plans to initiate action more at their places of gathering.
- Q: Can you speak to PP's position on this?
- A: PP is opposed to the counterprotest. These activists feel that PP has ceded too much ground. They have asked PP to join them at meetings and a nurse from that facility has joined them. Many PP's around the country welcome counterprotests but this one doesn't. They always have patients who say thank you.
- Q: PP at the Women's March provided signs - can we ask them to provide visuals like that? [see above response]
- Q: Have you done outreach to people in the neighborhood?
- A: They have talked to neighbors - not officially but when they're there, they've had positive responses

- This is a struggle that many of us have been in for many years. WHAM (Women's Health Action Mobilization) is an org that was affiliated with ACT-UP. This is the same argument as 30 years ago - do we do direct action around clinics or no. This was never resolved years ago. RAR is a direct action org. PP is a service provider and a policy org. They have different functions.
 - If we hadn't been there, there would have been 130 people with huge crosses and anti-abortion signs sitting in front of the clinic. Instead that group was way down the block. Instead patients saw peaceful activists singing songs.
 - Q: It sounds like a great action. Would you be open to talking to disability activists about selective abortion in the context of keeping abortion safe and legal? Abortion should be legal but often pertains to ableism in the culture. It would be good to have pro-choice group that would have a discussion with the Disability Justice Group.
 - Next action: Sunday, March 25th - NYC for Abortion Rights will be counterprotesting, 9 am at Foley Square. Abortionrights.NYC or facebook page - NYC for Abortion Rights
- Book Club (Andy)
 - When they Call you a Terrorist: A Black Lives Matter Memoir
 - Sunday, March 25th - 3-5 pm at The Center
 - 5 copies of the book available at the meeting, pay what you can, see Andy
 - If you get the book and don't show up, you will be shamed on social media!
 - See Andy - readandresistnyc@gmail.com
- Finance (Robert)
 - Collected \$280 for rent
 - \$8100 cash
 - \$4300 accounts payable
 - Selling tshirts at the end of the meeting
- Media (Andy)
 - Need extra help
 - Please read the newsletter, share it with friends, education corner
 - Starting to roll out graphics with public domain available
 - Looking at using Flickr for that
 - If you want to help media@riseandresist.org

- Developing a style guide (non-binding)
- Locations (Philip)
 - Asked for \$500 for Certificate of Insurance a couple of weeks ago
 - Most venues will require
 - Came out to \$513 instead of \$500
 - It can be cancelled at any time
 - Last Friday emailed all of the action and working groups that the Center is no longer taking room reservations for the rest of the year - he does have a list of alternative locations. if you want list, please email rar.locations@gmail.com
 - If groups are renting locations in other places and need a user agreement or COI, contact locations at email above
- Strategy Meeting (Alexandra, Philip)
 - This past Saturday, March 3
 - Co-facilitated by Leon and Alexandra
 - Next one: April 7th, location TBD - facilitated by Stu and Mark H, 2 pm or so
- Plug for RAR sales: Big snowstorm coming - please buy a hat! On website, smaller cut v-neck shirts are available (Dann)
- Tom Cat Bakery (Jeanne)
 - Met with Brandworkers - there's very flimsy legal framework for worker centers to exist
 - Tend to support immigrant laborers in food or service industry.
 - Now operating in a hostile environment
 - Concern that they will make an example out of this action.
 - The one thing that you can do that is legal is customer education (handing out flyers in front of restaurants in a non-aggressive way)
 - Handing out flyers is a direct action; putting body on the line
 - These are the only undocumented workers who have faced an I9 audit in the country who are protesting it/organizing. Most just disappear.
 - Will we continue to flyer with them with force and gusto?
 - Jeanne will continue - would like others to join
 - Looking for ways to protest the I9 audit that doesn't involve the Tom Cat Bakery
 - Ask: Will folks put some energy into flyer? And/or plan other ways?

- Q: Is there any restriction about what the flyer says or looks like?
- A: Yes. There may be ways to get creative.
- Q: If you can hand out a flyer, why can't you hold a sign?
- A: Complaints were filed that this workers center is behaving illegally. There was a settlement with Brandworkers in which they agreed not to carry signs and take direct action.
- Q: Who is RAR working with on this?
- A: Brandworkers
- Q: Where and when?
- A: Right now flyering in front of El Quinto Pino and 2 others.
- Reach out to Jeanne if interested in helping radiobaron@gmail.com
- Riseandresist.org/tomcat - form to fill out online to reach Jeanne
- A dozen-ish people said they were interested in flyering
- Alternative campaign against I9 audits not involving Tom Cat or Brandworkers
- Q: Are these audits out of Washington?
- A: They want to increase these audits by 400%
- Email Jeanne if interested

- Delta report back (Elka)
 - Flew to GA on Saturday and gave gift packets to Delta employees, flight crew, etc.
 - Thank you, Delta for standing up to the NRA from Rise and Resist
 - Everyone took them and appreciated them
 - It's a nice thing to thank people for doing something to help with the resistance; might be helpful in recruitment

- Education Group (Jake)
 - Responsible for scheduling speakers
 - April 10th - Attorney from Unlocal scheduled
 - education@riseandresist.org - if you're interested in having a speaker come - send a couple of dates and what they'll be speaking about

- New Actions - Easter Parade (Diane, John)
 - Not actually a parade anymore, it's a street party
 - 5th Ave 50th to 57th Street
 - A little re-tread on Winter Garden/Oculus action with animals, etc
 - Rites of Spring/Rights of Spring
 - Costumes, hats

- Fussy LoMein as Mother Earth
- Egg-shaped signs - rotten egg, bad egg
- Right to clean drinking water, right to sustainable environment, right to air to breathe, etc.
- Sunday, April 1, Noon to 2 pm - will have a meeting place but will move around and spend time in front of Trump Tower
- Animal hats - 40 for \$4.28 each - can pass them out
- Asking for standard \$200 - they will cover any overages
- Really want big participation
- Bring your kids and parents
- Q: Do you have a date and time for prop making
- A: Not yet
- Comment: It's a special, fun event
- Q: To what extent will the props, etc, be pushing out the resistance messaging
- A: Rise and Resist will be all over everything; pictures of Trump, Truitt with banners over mouth, Rights will be a big part of it, using bambi signs again. 67 rules that are being destroyed
- **VOTE: approval of action and \$200 budget passes**
- New Actions - Healthcare (Mark H, Mark M, Ann)
 - Multigroup action Sunday, April 15th
 - People's Action Tax Day Festival, in park TBD
 - Will have various components: performance, games, soap box, etc
 - Would like RAR to participate with own component
 - Looking for co-sponsorship
 - RAR component: Rise and Resist Photo Booth
 - Tax Law has created situation where cuts are being threatened - there's a huge weight over our heads
 - Elliot as King Trump holding rope over pulley with a 1 ton weight
 - Signs with "Don't take away my _____"
 - People standing under weight
 - People will be able to share their own stories about how they will be impacted
 - Culminating Action for Move On, Working Families, etc who have been traveling around the country
 - Q: Will you be doing anything at the post office on tax day?
 - A: No one uses the post office anymore to mail in their taxes
 - Budget will be under \$200

- VOTE: Approval to co-sponsor RAR component of Tax Day Action Festival - Approved
- Youth Caucus (Alex, Emily)
 - Thinking about a video series with younger activists interviewing older activists - how does activism relate to each and how can they learn from each other
 - Through the video/media group - room reservations will be needed so some budget will be needed
 - Q: Have you thought about what the age cutoffs will be for each group?
 - A: They will go by years of experience as opposed to age
 - They plan to reach out to some specific individuals, but they can always use more
 - Reach out to them at: RARyouth@gmail.com
 - VOTE: to approve video project- approved
- Commemoration of MLK, jr assassination (Elka)
 - Rise and Resist is invited to participate with Black Lives Matter of Greater NY - more info to come
- Tax Vote protest update (Tim)
 - There was a group of people who were in the Senate the night of the tax vote - stood up and shouted
 - One person (Zach) had to plead not guilty -the others got deferment
 - Zach's trial begins tomorrow - please think about him
- Sanctuary in NYC (Mel)
 - Forum on Thursday, March 8th, 6 pm, 63 Fifth Avenue
 - How we do Sanctuary? Nuts and bolts of providing Sanctuary
 - Hosted by New Sanctuary Coalition
 - Q: Would they be interested in coming to one of our meetings to talk as part of education?
 - A: Maybe - will look into it.
 - FightAIDS@earthlink.net for more info