

05.15.2018 RAR Meeting Minutes

Facilitators: Annette, Jennifer

Notetaker: 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 Introduction

- Introduce yourself with name and preferred pronouns, any law enforcement (none identified)?, any journalists (none identified)?, get off your phone, step up/step back, mission statement, info on presenting new actions, how to report back
- Jamie is the person to talk to if you're presenting this evening
- Greeter this evening is not here yet - Philip will be the greeter
- Several newcomers

Report back from Mercer Demo (Jamie, Mark)

- Last Thursday at 5:30 pm - large group went to 72nd Street subway station and made noise - marched to Rebecca Mercer's house and continued to make noise
- Put RM and neighbors on notice that we're watching - Mercer family foundation gave away millions of dollars to conservative 501(c)3 orgs
- Demo kicked off a stream of demos
- Website - opensecrets.com - explains who top 100 donors of PACs and political candidates. Top 100 donors give 72% of money. Many of them live in NY.
- Drum out the dark money was theme of protest
- They give money in secret - 501(c)3s are required to publish info
- Printed "dollar" bills with her face on them
- Want to do one of these per month to different donors
- Demo was a ton of fun
- Two questions: is this something people are interested in doing again? Overwhelmingly YES
- How many people would like to do a 7/7:30 am version of this? A wake up call. Legal to start making noise at 7 am

Hang Up Your Badge, Officer Report Back (Elka)

- Last Friday - planted a cherry tree at Melrose Houses in the Bronx, installed plaque that says "a place for justice"
- Very moving
- BLM, local people, neighbors looking down from windows - it was a real community event
- Hung badge and belt on tree - NYCHA had said they would take it down but they haven't yet.
- People have been stopping by and asking questions
- Postcard was sent a week before ceremony to the officer responsible
- Need someone to send a postcard once a month per summer - Mary volunteered
- Mary took video; Dann working on longer length piece
- Huge police presence; Jamie kept them on the other side of the street
- It's a site to visit
- Battery powered candle, still running; president of tenants association said she would keep it running.

Notetaker tonight is Jody - give her contact info after making announcements

Comms (Andy)

- Can buy t-shirts at store.riseandresist.org
- Difference between RAR facebook page and RAR facebook group
- Facebook as an organization is terrible, but if you're on facebook, help Rise and Resist
- RAR facebook page - voice of Rise and Resist (like email newsletter, twitter, instagram ,etc)
 - Info flowing out of meetings, action and working groups
 - 4-5 admins who post things and livestream in the voice of RAR
 - Helpful via the events tab - all approved events will be there
 - Past photos, get to store, subscribe to newsletter
 - Have your friends like the page
 - Like and comment and share from this page - facebook wants you to buy expensive ads for people to see content - commenting and liking makes it more visible
 - We have 6,000 likes
- RAR facebook group - not voice of RAR - voice of all us plus 14,000+ more people
 - People who live all over
 - People can submit posts of whatever they want
 - 6-7 moderators who approve posts if they're relevant and make sure things are staying civil
 - Voice of you, not the voice of RAR
 - The events page is a compilation of events that have been submitted to the group - if you don't see an event there, submit it to the group
 - This group has a larger reach because more people are in it
- Q: why do we need the two different groups?

- A: They serve two different purposes - the page is very narrow - just from this meeting and working groups. We also want to provide a space where everyone can talk to each other.
- Q: What has this got to do with facebook public vs facebook homepage?
- A: your homepage is your inbox but you can also just go to the RAR page and strictly see RAR information. The group is private; anyone with a facebook account can see the page
- Q: If I post something on the facebook page, is it guaranteed that all 6,000 people will see it?
- A: No, but you can set a setting on the fb page to guarantee that you'll see all content from the fb page
- Comment: Because of the algorithms of fb you don't always see RAR posts - I recommend that you check both the fb page and group every day. Posts in the fb group have to be approved by a moderator.
- If any of this is confusing, please email media@riseandresist.org

New Actions:

Trump is Coming to Town May 23 (Jamie)

- Trump/Pence having a raffle for dinner with DT in NY on May 23
- We don't know any more details
- It's the NY GOP Gala that night - maybe he's going there?
- Anyone who wants to do some investigating?
- Asking for permission to pre-approve demo (it's next Wednesday) - placeholder on fb, send out tweet asking if anyone knows anything about it, permission to organize a demo under \$200
- Theme-wise: impeach or immigration?
- Q: Since he's coming for fundraiser and we know how he's spending some of his money, could we make theme spend your money badly/corruption
- Comment: I know someone who is very good at research - will connect you. Are we looking for small-medium or large protest?
- A: Similar to December at Cipriani
- Comment: I think it should be a broad theme because how do you pick which evil thing?
- Comment: if he's coming for a fundraiser, we could do a dark money thing and make a lot of noise outside. If it's a GOP event, we could do something around get out the vote
- Comment: drag queens asking for their \$130k would be nice
- We need a clear message
- How about all of our signs for all of the categories
- Straw poll where people can vote on what they want the most
 - Corruption - approx 23
 - Immigration - approx 20
 - Impeach - approx 8
 - Dark money - approx 23
 - All of the above - 16

- Will take this back to actions tomorrow night - anyone not in actions who would be willing to work on this? No one volunteered
- Actions - 6pm on Wednesday at UAW, 256 West 38th St, 12th fl - try to arrive before 6 pm - all are welcome
- Proposal - endorse action on theme of corruption/dark money on May 23
- Overwhelmingly passed

Trump's Birthday (Wrolf)

- Last year had an unbirthday and it was a lot of fun
- Please let Wrolf know if you want to work on it for this year (June 14)
- wrolf@wrolf.net
- There were about 100-125 people with a lot of energy last year - good opportunity to attract new members

Healthcare/Social Safety Net Group (Mark)

- Cuts to food stamp program as part of farm bill
 - Will cut program by \$23 million - will create convoluted work program - will kick a few million people off of the program and scale it back for others
 - People would have to prove they meet work requirements monthly
- Will vote this Thursday in the House and then it will move to the senate
- Thursday evening, May 31 - Can the Trump Farm Bill
- Collect cans at Trump Tower and take them to a local food pantry
- Comment: I work with a food kitchen in NYC - going to a training this week - would like to help
- No impeach actions planned for that date
- Q: Is there an anticipated budget? A: Under \$200
- Might be speakers
- Mary has a battery powered PA system
- Proposal: to approve action
- Overwhelmingly passed
- Healthcare group meets at LGBT Center Garden Tuesdays at 6 pm

Poor People's Campaign (Mark)

- Proposing that RAR go to Albany on June 18th to participate in "A New and Unsettling Force" (final action of 40 days)
- We would need to raise money for the transportation
- Would figure something out for people who can't afford it
- A handful of people in the room are able to go on Monday, June 18th
- Will likely go on the Poor People's Campaign bus
- They have a fb page with details
- The buses leave from Union theological at 7 am - you need to reserve in advance
- Talk to Mark after the meeting if you're interested

Impeach (Martin)

- This Thursday, May 17 at Trump Int'l Hotel at Columbus Circle at 5:30 pm
- Need energy and people
- Will be a broad theme - not specific
- Who can come? A handful of people

Rent collection

Any new members joined since the beginning? Talk to Philip for more info

Elevator Actions Report Back and Upcoming Actions (Sasha, Jackie)

- Thursday, May 10 - rally outside 60 Centre St - settlement conference inside between MTA lawyers and attorney representing the complainants
- Rally outside to let them know we're not giving up - need an enforceable timeline for elevators
- What happened that day was described as promising
- Action this Thursday, May 17 - L Line - 9:30 am
 - 14th Street and 3rd Ave where the station is being shut down for renovations and they're not putting in an elevator
 - There will be State Senators and other pols there
- Wednesday, May 23 - MTA meeting - 9:00 am
 - NYC Transit Authority will be presenting capital plan for the subways
 - Andy Byford will announce his disability plan
 - Supposed to be putting in 50 new elevators in 5 years - will present to the board on Wednesday - would be good to get a lot of people at the meeting to show support
- Asking for endorsement for both actions which are coalition actions
- Actions both approved

Teach-In: Andy Izenson - Restorative Justice

- Will take questions during the talk
- Is an attorney and a mediator
- Trained in Restorative Justice and Transformative Justice - they are overlapping ideas but somewhat interchangeable
- Both based in fundamental idea that the way we've been going about justice in our culture is not going super well.
- What is the relevance of this work to a group like this?
- The benefit to this group is we're talking about a paradigm shift - be tender with each other so we can be fierce together
- The personal is political
 - The choices I make as an individual are political acts
 - It's a liberal myth that we can change anything on the local scale

- Thinking about the criminal justice system - there's a story: there's a bad guy, you need to identify them and then punish them by putting them in a box away from the good people.
 - That's a comforting fiction
 - If we really believe in that narrative, then we're good people looking for the bad people
 - That's called splitting - categorizing everyone into good or bad
 - Our criminal justice system is built on that system
 - This teaches us that the only way we can be made whole is by punishing the person who hurt us
- The saints are the ones that the system has been set up to keep safe and the sinners are the ones that the system is supposed to keep away from us
- In order to exist in this society we have to agree that some people matter and some people who don't
- If we question this, we start questioning the criminal justice system and the prison industrial complex and then the whole thing comes tumbling down.
- The system is not made up of interpersonal relationships - if there's a conflict, that person is bad - no tools for dealing with conflict
- We need a community that can hold conflict without expelling people
- Restorative Justice - partially tools for dealing with conflict, and building communities with tools for dealing with conflict.
- Putting this into practice in your lives - building strong and resilient relationships and community that has space for ouches and oopses and nos and resilience.
- This stuff has to come from the ground up - every person has to make an individual choice not to buy into the fiction of the criminal justice system.
- Restorative Justice - individual acts of harm and violence are a symptom so responses should be focused on healing harm. The harm should be made whole as part of the response.
- Transformative Justice - the problem is the community, not just the people directly involved. The community sits down and talks about where the harm came from and what would have been a better approach. It's the community's responsibility.
- In practice, two skills:
 - 1) Open hearted listening / a talking circle. Everybody sits in a circle together with a circle keeper. Circle keeper - the practice, not the content, Talking piece gets passed around. The person with the talking piece talks and everyone else listens. It's not easy. When other people are talking, you're often reloading instead of just listening. If you're really listening, you can disagree and be in conflict, but you still love them. The circle can hold the conflict. You can do community building circles and conflict resolution circles.
 - 2) Sitting in a circle. It's a way of taking down the defenses/barriers that are up most of the time.
- Think about what your vision is for an interdependent and liberatory future. What sort of person would you have to be to be in that world? What would you have to unlearn to be

there? What do I have now that I would have to give up to live in the world that I want to create?

- Q: What's the name of your teacher?
- A: Kay Pranis
- Q: Having worked on the left for a long time, my experience is not so positive. This stuff has been discussed since the 60s - how do you make it work?
- A: Start small in terms of group size but big in terms of vision. Room to grow.
- Q: we focus so much on anger in our hatred of Trump, how do we move into a more nurturing helpful space?
- A: Feelings have information for you but often it's not the information that you think it would be. Practice mindfulness - develop skills to recognize what information your feelings are actually telling you. Anger - you can use it destructively or you can recognize that it means that you're in pain. Recognize anger but don't obey it.
- @andyeyeballs

Pruitt / EPA Demo (Betsey)

- Tomorrow (Wednesday, May 16) - cosponsoring action tomorrow - ERT approved
 - National Day of Action to impeach Scott Pruitt
 - Noon at 780 Third Ave (48/49 Sts)
 - Presenting petitions to Schumer to impeach Pruitt
- A week of actions at the EPA in June at lunchtime
 - Each day will be different with recycled props from past actions
 - 290 Broadway during the first week in June
 - More details and sign up sheet will be coming soon

Brighton Beach Pride - Sunday at noon

Tomorrow - rally at Cuomo's office at 633 Third Ave at noon for safe consumption spaces

NY Health Act - Tuesday, June 1st - lobbying day in Albany

Affordable Medicines Now Conference - June 27-29 - register via Eventbrite or see Annette

Postcard Party (Mary)

- Next postcard party moved to Thursday, May 24 at 7 pm - 209 East 56th St, Apt 6B

Read and Resist (Andy) -

- This Sunday at 3pm - 632 Broadway - someone will meet you in the lobby
- The End of Policing by Alex Vitale - author will be there

Close Rikers movement (Martin)

- Recording opinions from incarcerated people of what needs to happen - categorizing suggestions - if you're interested, talk to Martin - he will post on fb

Sunday, May 20, 1-4 pm - Don't Bank on the Bomb - at Brighton Beach (Robert)

- Picnicking, leafleting, etc

Finance (Robert)

- \$223 collected tonight - bag will be in the back - and we accept credit cards
- Floor approved \$200 budget for Hang Up Your Badge - they spent \$342 - can we approve overage?
 - Approved
- \$4100 net worth this week

This Friday, RAR outing to the Peter Hugar exhibit at the Morgan Library, 7 pm

Phantom

- Saturday, May 5th was Ganja Liberation Day - huge turnout
- Suggesting we bring Cynthia Nixon to an RAR meeting

Heritage of Pride (Jake, Mark, Jay)

- How are we going to interact with HOP financially? We made a lot of money last year at PrideFest
- Officially, we need a \$550 permit - we made about \$800 last year
- PrideFest is in Washington Square Park now
- Parade ends uptown
- Expect a lower turnout due to that
- Q: Last year we glommed onto ACT UP's table and they let us do that - can we do that again?
- A: Good idea
- We can also do something guerilla at the parade end point/dispersal point
- Comment: we have about 800 of the old shirts left - we should sell those in addition to any new designs
- Q: What's the proposal? We usually vote on a proposal.
- A: we just learned about this. Do we want to spend \$550 on a space? Seems like no. Will reach out to ACT UP to share.
- HOP meetings - last night and tonight
 - Last night's general membership meeting - gave an in-depth presentation about route change - some of it made sense and some was bs. NYPD in the end chose route for them. PPT they presented will likely be released publicly. Per someone at meeting at St Patrick's Day Parade and Easter Bonnet Parade, NYPD abruptly shut down parades after 4 hours.
 - HOP member suggested they allow anyone to march who wants to - they ultimately decided to do that which means NYPD can participate. But maybe they can forbid firearms in the parade which might limit GOAL. They will attempt to work with GOAL to affect the way they march.

- No discussion on barricades
- Not really discussion on wristbands
- Concern re group participation was raised but no real input.
- Next steps: May 21st - HOP will provide official response to demands.
- June 5th: meeting with NYPD. Open town hall at the LGBT Center at 7 pm.
- This Saturday at 1:30 pm at the LGBT Center -next meeting of Reclaim Pride
- Possible options - they give us the resistance contingent, they allow us to march with wristbands, they allow us to march without wristbands.
- Last year the parade went ridiculously long. They were big gaps between groups. The changes that were made for this year don't address the actual problems like those gaps.
- They do seem to be pushing back against the NYPD and the Corrections Dept having vehicles in the parade
- It sounds like there will be some yeses and some nos to demands
- They've delayed and delayed until we're 3 weeks to 1 month before the march at which point they can't make any changes.
- This Sunday, Brighton Beach Pride - we will have some flyers there
- Corey Johnson is having an event this Sunday, May 20 and we will be there protesting - on High Line at 2 pm.
- Q: Who or what is driving route change?
- A: NYPD has final word on which of the few routes that HOP came up with they like best. Community businesses and residents had complaints which is what caused HOP to suggest route changes.
- We need to make this an issue for the Mayor.
- The demands were sent to the Mayor's office and he has sent a representative.
- Every Friday Mayor De Blasio in on Brian Lehrer - call in