

RAR Meeting Minutes May 22, 2018

Livvie and Jay - facilitators, Diane - greeter, Annette - note taker, Jamie - back up facilitator, Stu – distributed printed agendas

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.

(10) Welcome

Jay read the mission statement (projector not available)

New Members Welcome – Diane

Welcomed Gregor's students from Salzburg, Austria as guests, they are studying organizing.

problems with wifi at COTV led to delay sharing the notes in realtime at the meeting

(5) Elevators Action 5/23 MTA Board Meeting Report Back

Tim – press conference demanding elevators last week, State Sen Brad Hoylman spoke, 35 people, people with disabilities spoke

Jennifer VD – join us tomorrow at 5/23 MTA Board Meeting, demanding an accessibility plan, 9AM at 2 Broadway, no accessible train stations nearby, Fulton St. Station is the closest

Tim – you can sign up to speak tomorrow, 2 mins allowed per speaker

(5) Report back on Impeach Action

Jamie – reporting for Martin, last Thurs at Trump International Hotel, forgot indictment so it was a short demo, this week we're demonstrating WED against Trump, details to come later in the meeting

(5) Report back from Comms/ERT/Book Group/and Thank you card

Andy – 1. Hang Up Your Badge tree planting ceremony last week for man murdered by police, will pass around thank you card for folks who participated in that event

2. ERT has 7 members, received a request from Jamie, Brighton Beach Pride asked them to speak on behalf of RAR, ERT voted to APPROVE Jamie, as per bylaws floor must vote to affirm decision. MOTION PASSED

3. Book club on Sunday, "The End of Policing" with author Alex Vitale, 20 participants, great conversation, delved into ways to de-police and reduce policing, want to invite Prof. Vitale to do

teach-in, straw poll affirms interest. Please see poll for LGBT book for June, closing tonight, results to be released soon. To vote email readandresistnyc@gmail.com and on social media.

Q: who wrote "Against Equality"?

A: Yasmin Nair and Ryan Conrad edited the anthology
Livvie repeated voting options, email and social media

(25) Restorative Justice Teach-In with Mika Dashman (see bio on agenda)

Mika – provided flyers with info on myself and Restorative Justice Initiative, a city wide, multi-sector initiative seeking to make RJ available in schools, and other settings. As a lawyer I was shocked I hadn't encountered RJ sooner in my career, did my own research, led me to found RJI. As I met people and learned about who was doing RJ in NYC discovered they didn't know each other or what work they were doing. RJ is a theory of justice that focuses on repairing harm, resolving conflict, and ensuring the harm doesn't happen again. Thought RJ needed to move from alternative practice to mainstream concept and set of practices. Information clearinghouse and networking center, public events to learn more about concept and application. Organize meetings and convenings for people working in the field to learn and build strategically together. Vision of something different from punitive justice. Specific projects we're working on now:

1. Participatory research project with Teachers Unite, CUNY Grad Center, building teams of public school students, teachers and parents to implement RJ in their schools, summer training, launching study in fall to build alternative model for safety, different from mainstream narrative.
2. Community capacity building project in the Bronx (just launched in Brooklyn). Goal is to nurture grassroots community based work, support more of this work in NYC. Institutions, Dept of Ed dominates the space currently. Red Hook currently has program, engaged with Navajo Nation and Brooklyn Courts, implementing Navajo Nation model with appropriate adaptations for Red Hook community. Community Connections in the Bronx. In Brooklyn, Peace Institute also does community conferencing in schools and criminal court mediation program for low level crimes, usually results in recommendation for judge to dismiss case.

RJ is an umbrella term that covers a number of processes - circles, conferencing, dialogues.

3. Hidden Water, takes name from First Nations in Canada, healing work for adult survivors of family trauma, is in beginning stages working with individuals.

Many different things going on, our role is to foster cooperation between groups and across sectors, break down silos. If you'd like to learn more and get involved, attend a training or event, sign up for email list at www.restorativejustice.nyc or text RJINYC to 444-999

Q&A

Jake - is there a way we can use an RJ framework to address systemic or structural violence and issues?

Mika - RJ has largely looked at harm against individuals but can be expanded to look at structural harms. The trick is it's a necessary precursor for the perpetrator to acknowledge the

harm and take responsibility. If we created the opportunity for that to happen, it could happen, but it's difficult, as you know, for a system to acknowledge harm and take responsibility.

Elka - any programs for police to learn about RJ?

Mika - not here in NY, not yet, we could start one! Mediation and RJ are not analogous, there's some openness, and some resistance, as I understand it. As RJ moves to the mainstream, that may change. RJ and police look different in different places. In UK police are involved in referrals to RJ but can't say how that works in practice.

Mel - who invited you to speak?

Mika, Jay - education working group

Thank you!

- Rent bag passed, and Diane asked if any new members who arrived after meeting started?

(15) Trump is coming to town Wed May 23rd!

Jamie - it's true, he's coming to town, but very little info available. As far as we can tell he's going to CT in the morning, then LI to give anti-immigrant speak, then we're pretty sure he's going to Trump Tower. His public schedule is released at 8AM every morning. There is a FB event on the RAR page, Trump Tower at 5PM-8PM.

Jonathan - we're asking everyone to get the word out, bring everybody, we talked about drum out dark money, bring your noisemakers, Abolish ICE, bring any messaging we've used, expecting Vlad the Impaler Putin, a Town Crier, the RAR greatest hits. Also GOP fundraiser at Zeigfield Ballroom across 55th Street, no street closures yet but may move there. Mariachis for Trump (satirical) also coming (where at Schlossberg demo). Contact unions, spread on social media.

Jackie - Mariachis for Trump definitely coming.

Jamie - 100 going, 400 interested on event, 150 shares, please share in your networks, already shared to Make the Road. Show of hands - most folks going. Marshals meet at 4:30PM at 45th Street/5th Ave, there will be a pen, hopefully 55th/56th St east side of the street, we will refuse if it's farther away. Banners coming. Have 50 Abolish ICE, 100 Traitor signs.

Philip - are the signs coming out of storage?

Jamie - I haven't talked to Martin about bringing impeach signs. Mel?

Mel - I went to storage, organized, but didn't take any out.

Stu - I'm the leader of the peace caucus, concerned it will turn into an Impeach Action.

Jonathan - I think the messaging will be mostly visual, and noise. May stop to do indictment and Town Crier, but it might get all drowned out.

Andy - there's a way to do mass invites, select all NYC friends and invite, email me at media@riseandresist.org for directions.

Livvie - Elections have blue wave signs.

Jonathan - bring it if you want it there. Someone has the giant inflatable Trump chicken but that probably won't fit.

Jackie - if you can't tag or invite, it's because they already have been.

Mel - forgot to add, if anyone has accessed storage space recently, it's a combo lock now, don't need to go to lock box first, see me for combination.

Philip - please pull red and black Russian posters

Cotter - Trump is landing 3:45PM at downtown helipad, near Broad Street/SI Ferry.

(10) New Actions

Elections - background: UFT is supporting IDC (not challengers), due to Cuomo pressure, despite the fact that IDC is aligned with charter schools and blocked school funding, etc. June 4th protest at UFT meeting 52 Broadway 5:30-6:30PM, educational protest, hand out flyers.

Vote: APPROVED

We have the inflatable Trump chicken! It can be used when there is no pen. Betsy M is the contact.

Postcards - Mary H and Rachel - what should we do Thurs since there's no Impeach Action? Send postcards to CA for primaries to make sure there are Dems running in every district. May 24th 7PM-9PM 209 E 56th Street Apt 6B, see FB event, there will be snacks!

BLM Grand Central Monday night demos - Andy - NYC Shut It Down/NYC BLM

- organizes regular Grand Central demos about people who've been killed by police, not every Monday, announced on Thurs/Fri, after our meetings, would like to endorse these ongoing/upcoming actions so we can participate and promote.

Mary - have they asked us to endorse?

Andy - general ask to promo their protest but no specific ask

Jamie - have you been to any of their Monday actions and can you tell us what they are like?

Andy - 15-20 last Monday, read a statement about victim, chanted, similar to our UN march against racism, detour through Bryant Park restaurants, then through Times Square, ended with "Put your fist in the air if you support Black lives."

Apollo - have been going on for 3 years, including last night, objective is to highlight individual recently killed but it's not a unique situation, link to other police killings including globally, got on red stairs (usually blocked off). Participation has ebbed and flowed, anything RAR can do to promote would be amazing, do food outreach one a month too.

Mark H - is there a way to build a relationship so that we could eventually wear RAR gear to show we're there.

Andy - sounds like a great idea

Vote to endorse next action: APPROVED for next Monday, will report back and revisit

Health care and social safety net working group - Mark H and Ann - Trump resurrecting domestic gag rule for abortion providers or referring orgs, Planned Parenthood rally Thurs May 24th 6PM at City Hall, asking for RAR endorsement

Jake - what's the specific ask?

Mark and Ann - show up

Ann - Polled NYC for Abortion Rights and other groups and they only thing planned right now is this rally 5/24, but we're looped in if other actions planned

Mark - Pence and HHS is packed with anti-choice folks, lawsuits coming. Wear your RAR shirts.
Vote to endorse: APPROVED

2. Farm bill SNAP cuts, good news is Farm bill failed because of inter-Republican warfare over immigration/DACA. SNAP vote is rescheduled 3rd week of June, want to move 5/31 demo and food collection at Trump Tower to June, closer to vote.

(15) Heritage of Pride/Reclaim Pride/Resistance Contingent discussion

Jake - Heritage of Pride released their response to the demands of Reclaim Pride on Monday. Conceded to let Resistance contingent to march but were clear that they are aligned with police/NYPD, didn't address barricades, wristbands or other issues we raised. Resistance contingent will be in section 7, gather at 3:30PM (probably later), allowing 2000 people or 10 groups, all will need to wear wristbands. We have to decide if we want to march in this Resistance Contingent at all or not. If not, there's no guarantee we'll march in parade at all.

Diane - who is the Resistance Contingent? Who is leading it?

Jake - we're the first group who's been asked, response just released yesterday. If we don't march it does not bode well for the contingent as a whole. They want the names of 10 groups or 2000 people

Jon - ??? missed question

Stu - march starts when?

Jake - noon. Should only take an hour or so to do whole shortened route.

Jamie - what do we have to lose by saying yes? If we want to have a Resistance Contingent this sets us up to continue arguing for what we want for Stonewall 50. If we refuse to take it we lose our bargaining leverage for next year.

Mark H - I don't see a downside to saying yes. If it happens it happens.

Robert - how will the wristband thing work?

Sue - what time do we have to get there? How can wristbands for Grannies for Peace?

Jake - claim the wait will be less this year due to shorter route and limits on large corporate groups.

Mary H - can we have pointed messaging if we do this? They're doing something awful, we should say at the parade that we didn't get what we asked for.

Jake - options: we can bring our message and not mention HOP, or call out HOP, doesn't restrict us from other actions at march/parade.

Jay - remember, Jake deputized by Heritage of Pride to ask for Resistance Contingent starting in Jan. Took them months to say no and offer this. A little defeatist not to get it in it.

Mel - have we paid the admission/registration?

Jake - yes, when it was free.

Andy - a Resistance Contingent with restrictions is an oxymoron, so when we say we're doing a Resistance Contingent we shouldn't going along with what they are offering.

Philip - I realize you just received the info yesterday. Anything you want to share from the coordinating conference call last night?

Jake - we decided to bring to floor.

Jon - I feel like if we vote today it's not binding, we can say yes today we can drop later, agreeing to be involved now.

Jackie - meeting at center this weekend.

Cotter - I want to speak against, personally only interested in disrupting, not interested in this corporate thing.

Jay - civil disobedience and other groups who want to disrupt are free to work together and do that.

Vote that RAR will participate in Resistance Contingent of 2000 with wristbands: in favor 28, opposed 10, abstentions 13. APPROVED

Reclaim Pride Coalition meeting this Sat 1PM The Center rm 310

Tues June 5th Center Town Hall w/ NYPD (same time as RAR meeting)

Dann - merch for sale in the back!

(5) Trump Birthday Demo June 14

Wroff - if you want to get involved in planning Trump's Unhappy B-day come see me after the meeting

Finance - collected \$341 tonight, please give envelopes to Susan

(5) Don't Bank on the Bomb & Hang Up Your Badge updates

Robert and Elka - Sat teach-in on nuclear weapons and power, 12 folks participated, Sunday Elka sailed the boat by Brighton Beach Pride and flyering on the boardwalk, Scott Springer and Helen Rosenthal on board with NYC divestment in nuclear weapons, demo tomorrow at Blackrock, Wed 7:30 AM 51st St. b/w Park & Madison

Elka - check Brooklyn Eagle for pics, a social space is created with this kind of distributed action, where people are in two places.

Elka - 10-12 min video of Bronx Hang Up Your Badge event will be released this Thursday, Dann brought the videographer to the event.

Dann - share when you see it Thursday morning on RAR FB and youtube channel, this is a national problem, want as wide an audience as possible.

Elka - also hope it will help Angie bring her husband's case to attention of the Attorney General, help it go viral.

Jackie - Billions TV show has plot based on police killing of young black man

(5) Pruitt/EPA Demos June 4-8

Tom - still doing it, every day at lunch all week, 20th Street and Broadway, working in coalition with 4 environmental groups, Rev. Billy doing exorcism, focusing on Pruitt's policies not his scandals, "Take Back the EPA" message, march, please help. Discussed at Wed night action committee meetings, email me, Betsy or Lorenzo.

Patricia - but action committee meeting cancelled this Wed because of Trump visit/demo.