

## Rise and Resist Minutes 7.10.18

### Group contact information

- Website: [www.riseandresist.org](http://www.riseandresist.org)
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- Meetings: Every Tuesday at 7pm at the Church of the Village, 201 W 13th St.

### Welcome (John & Annette)

Journalist Present Emil Baptiste independent journalist

Ken & Sue read mission statement

Annette - step up/step back

Philip - Welcome committee

### New Actions - Immigration Proposal

Victoria Jody Donna

Victoria - some actions are updates

Despite outcry war on immigrants continues, 45 dehumanizing immigrants & violating human rights. 0-tolerance policy continues, people still being locked up, children still separated. People get no more than 10 minutes at the border. There is a podcast with an aclu lawyer. He says the right to a trial does not apply to these immigrants. Escaping gang violence no longer grounds for asylum- Sessions. They will no longer consider people from Haiti, other countries. Parents have to either leave their us citizen children behind or take them to dangerous places. Veterans who are immigrants are being discharged. Shelters are run by private prisons earning billions of dollars. Companies have donated 250k+ each to 45. California court denied govt attempts to make state law coordinate with federal.

Jody: Abolish ICE has gained tremendously, between massive marches and arrests in DC. It's time to start moving forward with more solid steps. Action @ Varick St., which is a sensitive location, so we changed it. July 30-Aug 3 5 days of action each day targeting a different entity complicit in city, state and country. We will make specific demands of each.

7/30 De Blasio

7/31 Cuomo

9/1 Schumer

8/2 Profiteers

8/3 Trump

We'll be designing posters with the word 'complicit'. Making posters with images of unidentified people in detention, use existing abolish ice flyers, and make specific demands, which we're working on. We are asking for help research or ideas. We want to invite other immigrant groups, if you have connections.

Now our financial request is <\$200..

Annette: vote on \$200 for this campaign. Do you need marshals, social media, etc?

Jody: Yes

Andy: Any other groups to partner with?

Jody: we want as many as possible

**Next immigration meeting Thursday July 12 7pm Asian American writers workshop  
110-112 W 27th st. (btw 6th & 7th)**

Claire: an example, i'm working on a state level news search. We'll be talking about things that are specific like IDC & Cuomo blocking DREAM act.

Cherie: isn't July 30 the deadline for reunification?

Jody: it will be half the deadline

Cherie: we should do it at the same time as the deadline

Jody: we didn't want to be competing with New Sanctuary Coalition. They accompany immigrants to hearings and are very strong advocates.

Anette: Let's vote on the proposal. 5 day action, share on social media

**vote: most in favor, no opposed or abstentions.**

Donna: we're also planning to educate people about abolishing ICE. We'll go to any neighborhood and we'll table there. Come to our next meeting. Usually we meet every Thursday. Phone number 212 494 6061. Join us thursday if you can.

**Disability Pride**

Jessica, Monica, Sasha

Sasha: This Sunday we are having Disability Pride Parade. Rise and Resist contingent with Elevators are for Everyone campaign shirts. We want to make subwas work for everyone. We will give you t-shirts if you go.

Jessica: This year parade will be bigger than ever. I'm going to be having a booth and will give out shirts. We are going to have stickers. 40 people said they'd be there. We'll also have postcards to cuomo about why we need elevators.

Facebook event page on Rise and Resist, please rsvp there.

Lineup starts in Madison Square Park. Parade starts at 10am July 13th. We'll be in Section D so we may not start moving until 11:30-12. It's a short parade from 17th -24th st and there will be a festival

Monica: There will be speeches and other groups there. CIDNY will be there. There will be a concert with people with disabilities performing.

### **Postcard party**

Rachel and Mary

Rachel: we are having postcard parties at our house with postcards to politicians.

Mary: is for a Democrat in Maryland who's running.

Mary: at last postcard party we wrote over 100 postcards.

Next one is friday july 20 7pm - 9 pm

### **RAR picnic**

Diane: picnic is 3-6 July 21

### **Alex Vitale Teach in "The End of Policing"**

People have been trying to do procedural reforms to make cops more professional, but it doesn't acknowledge the nature of policing. The diagnosis is not that there is a problem with the nature of policing but just high-profile events get out of hand. The goal is not really to reduce the burden of policing on society, just to increase acceptance of police. Some of these are very cynical because they increase police power.

Example: community policing, which actually turns community problems into police problems, especially poor communities and communities of color. What tools do they have? Guns, handcuffs, etc. These don't solve problems with drugs & youth violence, etc.

The origin of this is the idea that policing is liberatory to everyone, get rid of the predators. But this is a misunderstanding of the history. "The law in its majesty forbids both the rich & poor from sleeping under bridges...." (Anatole France).

Survival behaviors and pleasures of poor are criminalized.

So reforms to policing have to go further than this.

The idea is that a drug arrest is good for the community is misguided. These arrests are fundamentally unjust. Our whole framework is fundamentally unjust. We know it has nothing to do with public health. It was about solving political problems relating to race, in an effort to put blacks back in their place. That's always been what the drug war was about.

We don't need a kinder gentler narcotics unit, we need to get rid of narcotics policing altogether. Groups are pressuring city to reform 0-tolerance policies and replacing them with programs for young people. The cost of paying for cops comes out of DOE budget.

School security says we just need kids to respect us more. But what we need is no school police. It was driven by disinvestment in public education and moral panics about youth violence.

School is safe but we turn schools into armed camps with metal detectors, but they say they feel less safe.

Right now the disciplinary systems are there to drive out problem students because they bring down test scores.

This is tied up into politics of austerity. If we acknowledge this is because we don't have enough resources people would have to do something.

The point of the book is showing the history of this and how it's related to racial politics.

We don't need to "save" sex workers through criminalization. We need legal markets and safety standards, and give women more options so they have more choices. Women working in diners and other places were also subjected to unwanted sexual situations.

Questions?

Jay: I'm wondering if in the research you came around the issue of police living in neighborhoods. When police don't live where they police it creates more enmity.

Alex: The history is that too often when officers worked in communities where they grew up, their friends were criminals etc. They have tried things like offering public housing, etc. But police don't want it because they know they're at war with public & public resents it.

?: could you talk about community based groups your work with?

Alex: I've been working on this for 25 years now. So the book is filled with examples from around the world. We're in an exciting moment because groups that came into light with BLM are interested in these reforms. Even more mainstream groups are embracing these ideas. We Want to lead to empowerment of individuals.

Patricia: (standing ovation) can you tell us how your research can help us with the current administration use of immigration. It seems that there is no solution, there is just a cycle.

Alex: The first thing everyone recognizes is the border is everywhere, immigration enforcement is everywhere. As a result govt in all levels is implicated in criminalization of migration. Border policing needs to be understood as a racialized project. The earliest border restriction targeted chinese refugees after railroad was created.

The most pervasive and pernicious focus has been on Mexican and Central American immigrants. It's about demonizing people based on their country of origin and race. we know the drive comes from economic issues.

I'm for Abolishing Ice but that won't solve the problem. Border police are bigger than any police dept. Everyone (Obama, Hillary, etc.) has made them bigger.

?: My question is are children who fight back are classified as problem children?

Alex; On school-prison pipeline, it's not just kids who are resistant but it's also racist. We know students in special education have highest arrest rate. Why are kids put into special education? Why do they get arrested? There are kids who have special needs. But in a fancy schools they give them special services, don't call the cops.

?: what about special education?

Alex: I can't speak to that that's not my specialization. I'm not looking at one source, I'm looking at best practices.

?: I'm just asking about your sources

Alex: We can talk

Jim: I'm wondering about post-police? And what do we do about vigilantes?

Alex: There isn't a lot of discussion, but there is something about political violence. Most people who are talking about abolition are not saying just no police, we're talking about rebuilding things to policing isn't the only solution.

Many of us are looking at examples like communitarian police, what happened in apartheid, Northern Ireland, restorative justice.

Email: Based on your saying about the drug war, it's affecting other places

Alex: it's destabilizing lots of countries: Mexico, Philippines. Our country is part of it. When we take police out of the picture civilization doesn't collapse. It worked in Portugal.

### **Read and Resist:**

Sunday Aug 5, 3-5 location tbd

### **Report back and discussion on July 4 action**

Jamie: The three of us work with the actions committee. For those who haven't been to meetings in the last month we've talked about 7/4 vague action at undisclosed location with a banner drop and t-shirts. We invited anyone who's present in the room to come join us.

We didn't know the exact legal outcome. We were sure our t-shirt banner was protected by 1st amendment. Hard to complain about wearing a letter.

We weren't sure about the banner and how people would react. We weren't sure how long park cops would let us stay up with banner.

About 35 people from RaR came out. We had 5 people who were videographers and photographers. The rest was history.

We had 25 people downstairs with human banner. 10 went up to banner drop. After the banner was dropped 15 minutes later park police figured it out and came for banner. We gave it to them. We started to walk away. Then park police and said don't let them leave. 7 of us got tickets.

We'll talk about what happened after that in questions.

Rick: A lot of people wore the shirts, we handed out literature.

Jamie: That was the general plan and that's what we did.

Patricia: For those who have doubts about my association with RaR, I'm here to say the bond is strong. I'm thankful for coming here to meet you and you were so welcoming. I appreciate what you do every day. I wouldn't have done what I did without this.

Thanks to hav RaR I have the best lawyer. If I am going to leave you with something, just think about what I said about Michelle Obama at the press conference.

"Always do what you are capable of doing."

Questions:

Sue: Patricia, how'd you get up the concrete wall?

Patricia: I'd love to discuss details but I can't.

Will: What was the charge against people holding the sign?

Jamie: the people with tshirts weren't charged. People with banner were creating an area that was dangerous. The banner was a little bigger than what we were allowed to carry, but that's not what we were charged with. We will show it to lawyer.

??: Next time you have an action make sure you come together. You didn't acknowledge Patricia was part of the group.

Jay: You're absolutely right, but the situation is that Patricia had moved away and when it was reported members didn't know who it was, we couldn't see her. We didn't claim Patricia because we didn't know it was her. Once people were back then we realized who it was. Once we saw P we recognized her.

Emil: One of the concerns is that cops were endangered on the way down.

Anette: Initially we were taken and detained and 4 we were taken by police to the dock. The police said there was a climber on the statue. I just assumed it was 4th of July and we didn't know anyone was watching on TV. Initially the cops said they didn't have a banner or sign, and police said they were climbing to the top. We thought they were on the shoulder. We thought they were endangered because we thought they were on the shoulder. Then we saw a picture of Patricia.

When we got off we decided we weren't going to name you Second we said we care about your safety. Third we said yes it's a member.

I understand how that sounds to people that it seems we should have offered support. The only thing I could say is that if this ended badly and I was celebrating it would be bad. I accept responsibility, and I was speaking from a white pov.

Jacke: I was one of the rise and resist folks who was out in Jackson Heights and someone said what was up and someone said you were cowardly for not embracing P. I want to ask what restorative work can we do?

Jeremiah: I want to know that too. I think that's an important question and we have to have the humility to ask people for actions. We need a very intentional discussion about our structure and who our leaders are. One of the problem is people wanted people to say something but we don't have roles, but someone had to answer. I've been thinking about this and before we move this moment we need a meeting where we talk not just about ourselves but with others about what is it about our structure that affects this. I don't know what it looks like, maybe about defining our roles. It's a big question.

Andy: I helped run our read and resist reading group. We read very topical books. In August, we're reading a book about this topic, and a book about being strong white allies, what it means being in spaces that aren't diverse as the communities. Twice we've had authors join us. That will be the Read and Resist book in August. I'd love to hear NYC and non NYC suggestions.

Jay: I just want to clarify one thing in terms of timeline, I had another thing to get to and at 3 I had left the island and before anyone knew anyone was on the statue. That's when I saw Patricia and I was having conversations with Martin and the press. If you look at the quotes in all the newspapers you'll see me talking about how we support her. All those interviews happened between 4:20 and 6:00. Just to be clear there was full support.

Jennifer: I was letter E. We were outside info booth. We were waiting for people who'd been arrested. People were terrified. If I hadn't seen the police say that I wouldn't have known there was a person on the statue. I thought the island was closed for the day. I am a different kind of minority and I have to say I've been very easily embraced, and I've also had a lot of microaggressions and discrimination. I've never been in an activist group before because overall able-bodied places don't include disabled people. The only way is to keep showing up. There are a lot of people here of all I love, and of all the groups this one is very open to embracing people.

Stu: I was in the banner group. To feel accused of not caring about not caring about Patricia is not necessary. Maybe it didn't come out right but we worked on this action, we're proud of this action, we're proud of P.

Tamara: Everything you did was awesome but when we talk about the timing of the letter & we're taking away from the moment. Are you prepared to embrace people of color and are you ready to deal with the backlash? Whatever you thought, this was necessary. There are people



who don't know RaR and they see a black woman and RaR not embracing here. You guys were called out and being spoken to. I respect your work, but it's disappointing with that conversation with the anger and defensiveness was larger than your willingness to communicate with black people. We all make mistakes, we're all human, but how willing are you to be ready when a person of color steps forward.

John V: this is our first meeting after that meeting. We're a non-hierarchical group. You are free to speak up.

John: I don't have a lot to say but let's think about how we organize actions and what safety protocol we have in place for actions that are increasingly more daring and bold. We have to think what we can do in the future for safety.

Jackie: The thing is that on Facebook and Twitter the story got out and it didn't look good. I appreciate what Tamara had to say. What disturbs me is when I see the hate and degradation and bitterness back in forth. We're still stuck in something ugly. I kept thinking why can't we move away from that.

Maryellen: I've been working on crisis communication plan. What people will know is how to contribute to the situation. If someone falls we'll know who calls 911, who does CPR, etc. We're not a Fortune 500 corporation.

?: I just wanted to repeat what Tamara has said. Talking about actions in the future is good but only Jeremiah said something about race. You have to do better than reading a book.

Martin: The criticism is fine. We're not going to learn if we don't take the criticism. We have to do research how to do better. I don't think social media is where to do that.

Mark M: We need to learn from this. When this happened on social media I got in engagements on fb threads & had to step back. One question that was asked a lot is "how did you not notice that Patricia was missing."

Jamie: How did we not know that P was missing? There were 10 of us and P was with us. Police came over. In aff. group meeting we planned to talk our way out of getting arrested. We assumed P was trying not to get arrested. There was only one way off, we figured she was hanging out downstairs.

Emil: really more of a comment, I'd like to say that I think social media shouldn't be the battlefield of choice but it is always a chosen battlefield. People can say things online that people won't say in person.

?: related to that, social media is the place where poc have power, so don't dismiss it. we're not going anywhere. I think it's important to say I don't know how I got on your listserv etc. P did you

a huge favor. But she did the favor of not telling the group what she was doing, she protected you. She took all the danger onto herself. It's frustrating for me as a black woman not related to this group to hear excuse making without acknowledging how she protected all the white people. She has given you an incredible moment I don't see you seizing. We should offer more gratitude.

Patricia: Social media is a good place to keep the momentum going. I'm not there, I'm somewhere else. I was thinking of the children. It was a personal choice, I put my life in danger, I was not thinking of people enjoying the 4th of July. I wasn't thinking of people rescuing me & maybe risking their lives. I was thinking of the children.

Mary: One of the things I found frustrating is people are coming out of the woodwork to protest us in weird ways. The other day on Monday, someone texted me and we have a little action for her at Patricia's release and when I went to it I only saw RaR there. Here I am trying to defend my postcard party from someone from California who doesn't know me.

Tamara; because you are probably thinking "I'm trying to do something good." But I don't have a platform. I saw you put on twitter the postcard party. I think that a lot of time we're getting the backlash, this is the backlash that happens when you have that division.

Mary: My theory is that the reason we don't have more connections is that a lot of us have worked on a lot of issues, why don't we have more support?

Tamara: Why aren't your reaching out?

Annette: People tend to come to groups with their friends.

John: Everyone who's here, keep coming, help us make those changes.

Alexandra: These days have been full of joy and pride and a lot of pain and ugliness. Can we survive and tolerate the bitterness? Can we tolerate that? We need to to do some of this to have a more intersectional community.

??: I was on snapchat shopping. I didn't see P's face but I saw a woman on Statue of Liberty and I was like "that's cool." I said "can I do that" and my mom said "no." I'm not from America so I call myself an immigrant. I was shook and upset when I saw that. You have a thick accent. Where are you from?

Patricia: I was born in the Republic of Congo, which is next to Democratic Republic of Congo, used to be Zaire. Think of Staten Island. It was separated by French and Belgians. Thanks for asking.

??: I assume that everyone is here for a common purpose of trying to rise and resist. I feel like the July 4th action I was lucky enough to be here is to see some of the amazing planing. I think they did an amazing job of giving P a platform. We have to acknowledge she inspired a movement in her actions. You became a voice. So many people saw this as a catalyst, and someone who focused this on the children. I understand there must be reflection but we have to look and see what we have in common and what we can do going forward. I'd like to see what you'd like to see happen next.

Rick: I was thinking about the guy in Paris who climbed the building who didn't think of himself and saved that child, and was proud of P. I was proud of the press conference. I was proud to see the films of people protecting her. I love this group. I think we need to focus on the larger problem.

Simone: I wanted to say a huge thank you to Patricia because she has given so much public recognition to RaR. I notice people getting defensive when we talked about how we aren't aware enough. We are a very white organization. How can we make sure we are giving a platform to poc in this organization instead of getting defensive.

Alexis: When I heard of this I thought it was so cool and so fierce and so proud when I found out it was RaR. I didn't hear about any of this and I'm learning about it tonight. I was crushed when I saw the 1st press release. We're just a bunch of individuals. Who speaks for the group? I am concerned about people's safety at all actions. Question: did you tell anyone, or was it just something that came up?

Patricia: sometimes you get an idea. The night before we had a meeting and I was just thinking where will we be? I wasn't planning on getting arrested. I wasn't planning on getting in trouble. When you saw me escape that was me escaping. I figured the agents thought I was a tourist.

John: we're ending with patricia's words. But we have a finance announcement.

### **Finance:**

We have \$5,111

collections: \$1,538

We got \$3,840 from actblue \$1,040 from paypal.

### **Meeting Over**