

RAR Meeting Notes, Tuesday 8/14/18

Group contact information

Website: www.riseandresist.org

Email list signup <http://eepurl.com/cCzq1X>

Twitter: www.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.

Jay and Jennifer B. are facilitators

Dianne is greeter

Alexandra is recorder; Andy is editor

Introductions

RECLAIM PRIDE MEETING 8/13/18 report back: Mark M, Jackie R, Jay W

Background:

Heritage of Pride has been ignoring the interests of the community, prioritizing interests of the police, sowing seeds of division, changed and shortened the route of the parade. Reclaim Pride has many concerns.

Reclaim Pride Coalition held a Town Meeting several weeks ago to see how next year's march which marks 50th Anniversary of Stonewall uprising will be conducted. It will also be an International march.

A poll was taken, HOP brought it to the recent meeting

Transparency discussed in opaque way. Reclaim Pride asked many pointed questions, which we did not feel were answered.

Poll: Replace HOP march with Civil Rights march (75 votes)

Keep march as it is (3 votes)

Reclaim Pride concluded: march needs to be a Civil Rights march, not a corporate march.

Mark M: We will have civil rights march LGBTQ IAS march regardless of what HOP does.

There will be a FB page about this. Plan: Grassroots gathering.

Mark calls it: "Million Queer March." Date: June 30 2019. It will have no corporate floats, no barricades.

(HOP has agreed no wristbands - one victory)

Jackie: Reclaim Pride meets at the Center every Saturday "We need people; we need you."

Questions:

Ian Fernandez, a 16 year old interested in networking with peers across high schools: What is best way to spread the word among peers?

Jay: Twitter, Instagram, Facebook: ReclaimPrideNYC.org

Diane L(she/her): outreach to other cities?

Jackie and Mark: We are working with other communities; we need to inform groups across the world. Media needs to see us, not corporate floats.

Elections Committee

Livvie sent around a sign up sheet for opportunities to be involved with Elections group.

She reported about motion to endorse Cynthia Nixon, raised last week. "much discussion which was kept very civil"

Conclusion of the Elections Committee: this is not the right time to press RaR to endorse Nixon, and committee is withdrawing the request (lots of absenteeism over summer, committee is very busy with other initiatives.) This discussion should continue, however. There is no prohibition from endorsing candidates in RaR bylaws.

Andy: There have been recent actions protesting candidates, public officials. This is a very appropriate way to move forward our mission. RaR does direct action.

Livvie: this is the discussion we should be continuing, especially with Elections Committee. Further discussion on this topic was postponed.

Immigration Committee

Mel, Maryellen, Lizzie

Committee proposed an action that "empowers the community which is quite marginalized": Fort Tryon, Inwood. Goal: build coalitions. This community is already engaged in terms of actions, and could desperately use our assistance.

Plan to organize a March proposed for September 22.

"Immigration is strength"; "white supremacy is terrorism"

A sign up sheet for those interested was sent around. If you are interested, you can also email

Lizzie: at escott@sva.edu

Mel announced: Thursday 8/16/18 6-8 PM Jackson Heights Diversity Park

Mel reported there is a petition in back addressed to Schumer: please sign.

Comms Committee

Andy and Dann announced mini teach-ins:

Monday August 20, 7 to 8PM: How to talk to the press - media training for activists by Marlaine

Monday August 20, 8 to 9PM : How to write a press release: Melanie Broate will lead this; she has worked with a lot of NGO's.

You can use a moment with press to get across your message, not just respond to questions.

Upcoming teach-in: Twitter for activists

If interested in this or other topics, email Media@riseandresist.com

Progressive Action Night meets every two weeks on Monday nights

www.Radicalcopyeditor.com is a wonderful resource for talking about challenging topics.

How to refer to people with disabilities, people who are transgender; ideas that are changing rapidly, as is the language.

Press is notoriously bad about addressing this in a timely way.

Best to follow an individual's lead if you are talking to them.

Postcards

Rachel:

At a recent session, 102 postcards written to Democratic voters, focusing on how Florida voters can vote by mail.

On Monday August 27 there will be another postcard session that will focus on districts which are supporting anti IDC candidates.

Location: 209 East 56th Street, Apt. 6B

Dianne L welcomed several new people to the meeting. .

Actions Group

John

This week's Wednesday Actions Group is cancelled.

Actions offers a great opportunity to develop actions, and see how actions are developed: for example, vague actions, banner drops.

Write and Resist blog

Jim, Dann, Jennifer:

Announcement of a Rise and Resist blog, which Martin mentioned last week.

Blog: it was explained that blogs invite informal writing; the opinions expressed will be opinions of the individuals writing, not necessarily of Rise and Resist. Personal experiences in the resistance are invited rather than editorial pieces.

Editorial structure: goal is to have 5 editors

Process of selection of editors and writers to be determined

Writer will be assigned an editor who will work with that person to get piece ready. Then one more editor will give ok. Blogs need to be published quickly. "We want to balance speed and editing."

Blog can include pictures, videos, photo essays. "We don't want it to be controversial, but a place for people to come together."

Mel: Editing = censorship; there should be no editing at all.

Dann: The goal will be to have editors and writers work in partnership.

Jim: We plan to be very open minded about what we include

Dianne L: Photographs are available for blogs.

A new member offered her skills as a writer and editor. Jennifer welcomed her:

A blog interest form was sent out; if interested, please email: Email: media@riseandresist.org

Stu: Editing is useful, and can opinions be expressed freely, even if not everyone agrees?

Jennifer: Has given this much thought: the “priority is personal narrative” and the experience of people in Rise and Resist and the resistance.

There is no basis to disagree with personal narratives. This is not about op eds. She gave the example of John who is able bodied was transformed by attending disability pride march.

A heated discussion ensued over whether the blog should be limited to personal perspectives or should include anything that a RaR member wants to write about.

Ann: Martin spoke to this issue last week; goal here is to differentiate blog from Facebook page, and to limit amount of argumentation in this blog.

Jim: Dates for blog meetings not finalized.

A non binding straw poll was taken:

- 1) blog should consist of personal experiences/video essays
- 2) people write whatever they want, including political opinion

A large majority voted in favor of 2).

As tempers rose, a new member suggested that there is room for both personal stories and other pieces.

Read and Resist

Andy

A poll was taken recently focusing on a selection of books on race, whiteness, and racism.

“White Fragility” by Robin DiAngelo is the 7th book for Read and Resist selected. It will be on Sunday September 23rd Robin DiAngelo will be invited to join by videoconferencing.

Patricia O

Lawyers have invited letters to the Judge supporting Patricia; letters should focus on her work ethic, her character, her involvement in RaR, whether she is an active member deadline for letters is August 20.

Write to: Judge Gabriel W. Gorenstein to the following email address: rst314@nyu.edu

Finance

Net worth is \$10526.00

\$253 was collected for rent. (Weekly rent at the church is \$350.)

Andy discussed a new RaR situation. RaR approved money last Tuesday for people to go to DC to pay for civil disobedience action to oppose appointment of Judge Kavanaugh; this action was in collaboration with Center for Popular Democracy; RaR members in Finance did not realize that people needed money to pay for bus tickets in advance. Andy stated that RaR is committed to people receiving the money to pay for their fines. The question of what to do when people need money in advance, rather than being reimbursed after the fact with a receipt will be discussed this Saturday. Andy recommends that further discussion of this matter be

postponed until next Tuesday after Finance Committee meets. Or you can send comments to Finance@riseandresist.org

For general information on any topic, contact info@riseandresist.org

Non Rise and Resist Actions

Brianna, CEO of Generation Vote

Aim to educate college students on campuses across NY and DC to raise awareness about voting, engaging young people in political actions; sustainable youth movement.

Website: Genvote.org

Email: bcea@genvote.org

Sista Shirley “from the forgotten borough Staten Island”, talked about Ramsey Orta, who has been set up and targeted by cops, moved 3 times, is in solitary confinement again, and privileges are limited. He and his family are being targeted. He took a plea instead of his mother being jailed. Was supposed to be in jail for 4 years

Staten Islanders against Racism and Police Brutality

He has been assisted to be released 3 times. Sista Shirlee said he has been assisted by Raging Grannies.

Meeting Thursday August 16 on Staten Island, Canva's Institute, 150 Victory Blvd

Eric Garner was not first to be choked on SI, but the 3rd.

Sola Adenakan sola@st8cked.com,

talked about her documentary on whistleblowers

As an Afro-Latino, “I had to go through a lot to make this documentary, and overcome challenges.” The documentary is called “Whistleblowers.” She stated that we must “support the truth tellers.”

She listed 7 people in the film who have been retaliated against for being whistleblowers. A woman who Cuomo had exploited who appears in the documentary, and folks have continued to take action and retaliate against her.

PTSD diagnosis.

Cuomo admin has beaten her business down;

Another whistleblower: only person in NY State history to win a retaliatory case (2017).

Uncovered extreme levels of lead in group homes and that group homes employed level 2 sexual offenders and a person convicted of rape. He was retaliated against.

NYT did a piece on him shortlisted for a Pulitzer. Schneiderman went after him. State has huge financial resources with which to fight the whistleblowers.

Judge reduced his legal award dramatically . So he owes lawyer almost \$1m.

Bikes Against Deportation

Ian Fernandez, fireninja718@gmail.com

16 year old high school student; civil and human rights activist; self identified as half white and half african american.

It is sickening that we have a racist sexist homophobic president.

Thursday, August 16, 5-6 pm: Bikes against Deportation event.
201 Varick Street

Ann R.

There is an action being planned for 1st week in September, which is when Grassley has called for vote on Kavanaugh. She will let people know as soon as she has more information.

The Phantom discussed his platform running for
He calls himself a Utopian Communist in contrast to Democratic Socialists.

The meeting ended at 9 PM.