

## 11.06.2018 Rise And Resist Meeting Minutes

Facilitators: Jamie and Ken

Notetaker: Maryellen

### Group contact information

- Website: [www.riseandresist.org](http://www.riseandresist.org)
- Email list signup <http://eepurl.com/cCzq1X>
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- Press email: [media@riseandresist.org](mailto:media@riseandresist.org)
- Meetings: Every Tuesday, 7pm at The People's Forum 320 W 37th St, New York, NY 10018

### Meeting Introduction

- Any law enforcement in the room (none responded)? Any journalists in the room (none responded)? Stay off your phone, step up/step back, raise your hand and give your name and preferred pronouns, no chatting or cross-talk
- Reading of the mission statement
- Any new members? Diane is greeter

### Report Backs

1. **Kirstjen Nielsen at the Council on Foreign Relations (7:30 am - 8:00 am)**
  - a. She is the current head of DHS and RAR went with signs and posters, and yelled at her when she walked in.
  - b. Barely any police there, but Secret Service tried to wait protesters out thinking all would leave.
  - c. About 15 - 20 people arrived, in addition to DSA (Democratic Socialists of America)
  - d. When CFR arrived, RAR shouted for them to ask the hard questions...but no acknowledgment
  - e. When she was leaving her car got stuck at a traffic light and protesters were able to go up to her car and flash signs at her.
  - f. On the scale of 1 - 10, this action was an 8 (was the most direct action one could do/by getting up close to the person)
  - g. She controls ICE
  - h. Pundits reporting that she may be leaving this position, but problem is who replaces her.

- i. (Bill) Good to know the secret service has laws that they can kick you off of the street, by “federal statute [xyz] you can’t stand here.” Was the first time heard, the streets of NY don’t belong to public. (Jamie) What they asked was that we move away from the doors, so Kirstjen Nielsen can walk in/have a clear path for her. There weren’t any barricades.

## **2. Trump’s Lies Destroy Lives at Columbus Circle**

- a. Great action - (Stu) hasn’t been out on the street for a few weeks, so this felt really good. People walking by really responded well to the action.
- b. Jonathan Walker’s chant was really good: “Trump lies about” and response was “[xyz, eg. Immigration; Healthcare; everything]”
- c. Terrific signs, which were handmade (e.g., encouragement of violence)
- d. (Donna) About 50 people in attendance, people walking by joined us, repeated chants, gave a thumbs up
- e. (Kellen) Was good to occupy the plaza above and no one harassed us to get down.
- f. (Jay) Was there a big show up but were there any police? (Jamie) No police at all.

### Elevator Action Group

- 1. (Miriam) Approx. one week ago and the MTA is stalling and will not negotiate. They’re saying there isn’t any funding for accessibility.
- 2. (Jennifer) This Friday, November 9th (12:15 - 1:00 pm) 7th Avenue in Park Slope (F/G line)
  - a. Council Member Brad Lander is having a press conference to install an elevator at that location. Brad Lander is a fair-weather advocate on RAR elevator actions group’s behalf.
  - b. He has been supportive of people with disabilities when it helps him but people in the elevator actions group feel that the benefits of the MTA putting in one more elevator vs. about Brad Lander
  - c. Request for endorsement of this action (there will be other groups in attendance)
  - d. (Alexis) Saw something this evening which was shocking but the reality for people who are disabled: saw a man carrying a wheelchair up and behind him was a man without any legs who had to hoist himself up the stairs.
  - e. Unanimous decision to endorse action as RAR**

### New Actions

- 1. (Andy) Discussed topics and events in response to Pittsburgh Tree of Life Synagogue. March with stops along the way, with people speaking out with personal testimonies

(e.g., Jewish and anti-fascist coalition). Meeting last night about this. There is a Facebook event posted. Not permitted. First location will be in a park.

**a. Unanimous approval of RAR endorsed action**

2. Action Committee Members Strategy Meeting (11/17)
  - a. For people who are active members, previously active and want to get involved again, or others interested in future
  - b. 2:00 pm - 5:00 pm

Discussion of how we are feeling/fears coming up to the midterm elections

1. (Stu) Not afraid of losing. Have a feeling democrats will do ok. What is concerning that if we do win, people who were “woke” will find out they were just between naps and will be all over. Doesn’t feel like it’s all over, for the next 10 years. Issues that have been ignored before, can’t be ignored again.
2. (Robert) Feel as though it’s not 10 years, but the rest of our lives. We’re a movement of peaceful people. Referenced LA Kaufmann’s book launch event. Each step we take we have to build the world we want to live in.
3. (Leon) Agree. It gets tired sticking fingers in dam and hoping it doesn’t bust. We have to rebuild the dam and move an agenda forward. Go to the strategy meeting on the 17th.
4. (Bill) Past experience with Aids crisis, and Act Up thinking Bill Clinton was elected, we found out the democrats were just as ignorant until they were confronted with Act Up. We’ll have to apprise the democrats of us. We still have a president who is ignorant and proponent of ICE. We have a lot of do. The effort is still necessary.
5. (Donna) Not one who has paid a lot of attention to electoral politics, however given there are many progressive candidates what is concerning is the other democrats who resist anything that is very far from the center. Afraid we’re going to have to keep on influencing the democratic party - not something she likes to do in RAR.
6. (Diane) Thinking it’s going to take longer for results, considering the provisional ballots. Not going to be a sweep tonight. Can be encouraged there will be more progressives and women in the House. How this relates to us/RAR? Looking forward to strategy meeting.
7. (Elka) Looking forward to consistent, long-term actions. Like the NRA action with FedEx...build and be sustainable. Getting out of comfort zones so we can grow with experiences. Never looked at Trump’s tweets. Be less reactive to immediate events.
8. (Jamie) When RAR first started, people said can’t do anything until the mid-terms. But during the last two years, we’ve done a lot. The midterms doesn’t change that. It may change some of the things Trump will be doing. Very concerned about his ability to do Executive Orders out of frustration to do something, but also a way for him to go after the LGBTQ community and Immigration, etc. Having a democrat house will do some things, but for the next two years we’ll still have to be out there and convincing people to get back out. Concern: how do we rebuild our movement; and reach out to people who left for various reasons; and how do we get people back in to help us fight. It was reassuring to see a good turn-out at Friday’s (Trump lies) demonstration.

9. (Eve) Even if we win everything we hope to win, and we impeach trump we still have Pence. So we still need people to be in it for the long haul.
10. (Kellen) Important to remember, that after electoral politics have to still show up for other issues not just Trump and Pence and other republicans.
11. (Andy) The results tonight will probably be better than what they were two years ago. We can continue to engage people in a way that is clear in retaking our country isn't something that occurs during campaign season. It's a daily, monthly activity.
12. (Ken) We have done a lot of incredible things. We would have been in a really worse place if we haven't done any/all of the actions the past couple years. This group was formed out of basic emotions: fear, grief, sadness, etc. We were presented with an evil the likes of which we've never seen. Encourage us to be there for each other from now on.
13. (Maryellen) Have to hold the people who we elected accountable. And support them as well
14. (Jay) We have to remember how important it is about how we've managed to inform the dialogue and language that is used politically in this country. And we have to be conscious of that moving forward. If not, then we have a regrouping and push forward the next two years. If it does go our way, there will be push back and we'll have to be prepared (e.g., people running campaigns, not general counter-protesters). They're going to try and control the media and dialogue.
15. (Laurie) Responding to language of "our way" and "we" especially this evening. We're talking about a binary of two parties. We have to look at a much deeper analysis and critical thinking, and speech and words: about how we are deepening expectations, analysis is, vision is, demands will be of ourselves and what's supposed to be representative of government. We're in a voting frenzy on an election night. The radical view is not going to be realized tonight. Afraid of this and 2020 and the absorption of the amount of energy because it's easier to travel in a binary, than the spaces that require us to be much more complex with regard to transformation in our systems and relationships.
16. (Susan) RAR hope we keep on rising and resisting because even if it goes our way (the democrats will win the house) we have to stop the worse of the worst.

→ Rent Collection: \$186.00

#### A Place for Justice follow-up

1. Follow up to an action that started a year ago: Angie Kearshe who's husband was killed in a police car in Schectedly.
2. Event calling for a Grand Jury is on Facebook.
3. When tree was planted in front of Angie's house there was a wooden marker and now will be bronze (on Friday)
4. Andrew's Law: provision for all victims of police brutality and needs for police to address health when people calls for health (or needs assistance).
5. Brings the group to the Bronx, and our/RAR presence matters.

6. If our presence is visible that brings other groups together over these issues it will help strengthen us.
7. Contact Elka: [elka@elka.net](mailto:elka@elka.net)

#### Finance

1. Collected \$186 tonight
2. (Philip) Bring attention to the fact that first invoice was processed for the month, which was almost equal to one night at the Church.

#### Read and Resist

1. (Andy) Democratic counter-balance to Trump there are many ways he can target various communities in the US and abroad. Regarding the Trump transgender memo there is an upcoming meeting in the first week of December.
2. Facebook event

#### LGBTQ Day of Action - Tanzania

1. (Jason) Emergency action tomorrow during the day, and evening. Global day of action depending upon what timezone people are in. 10:00 am at Tanzania consulate which will be a direct action and 6pm at Stonewall which will be solidarity. Other participating groups include: Act Up, Vocal NY, etc.
2. (Michael) In Tanzania the police/swat team there is tracking down gay men and have a list of 2k. It could get worse and it's important to challenge the Tanzanian government. If can't participate in person, then participate online via social media.
3. There is a Facebook Event (hosted by Michael Ighodaro)
4. (Jonathan) Asked for clarity event is beyond gay men. (Michael) When there is a crack-down in Tanzania they are initially about gay men and not lesbians.
- 5. Unanimous decision for RAR to endorse action.**

#### Misc.

(Bill) Action for immigrants on Saturday. GAG and Sing Out Louise were there and had the biggest

(Ken) GAG's actions for past two years has worked hard to get FedEx business alliance with NRA is no more because of an alliance with other groups. Next focus is Wells Fargo.

(Andy) Cosecha launching a campaign to mobilize people to go to the border to help people crossing the border. Also addressing birthright citizenship issue. Event at Grand Army Plaza, noon, this Saturday. There will be a "human-sized" passport as a prop.

(Eve) Kim Davis lost her re-election.

-- Meeting ended at 8:30 pm

### Rise and Resist ###