

Rise and Resist Meeting Minutes January 23, 2017

One working journalist in attendance – Sola

Making a documentary about politics and corruption in NYC

Running against the machine

Standard Meeting Introduction

Step up and step back, etc

Jay

We're passionate people – but it can get the better of us. If someone disagrees with you, that does not mean they are attacking you. We are all in this together and on the same side

We are having groups present thematically, with all of their content at one time.

Immigration

Wendy

- 16 people couldn't board the bus to DC because so many people were trying to go
- There were different smaller groups that went to specific offices
- Schumer
- Asked to speak to staff, gave personal stories, chanted, etc

Judy

- Please call Schumer every single day, we want a Clean Dream Act and we want it now
- To also call on McConnell and Paul Ryan, (zips: 40027, KY; 53118 Wisconsin)

Mary

- 42002, don't say you're from Louisville, say you're from Petuga, you'll be taken more seriously

Wendy

- The group was the NY Immigration Coalition and it was a great job

Mel

- The New Sanctuary Coalition will be meeting next Saturday Feb 3rd, 5-8pm, to warn a woman if anyone comes into the church to detain her despite her sanctuary from ICE
- Ravi, the leader of the New Sanctuary, is currently in detention (26 Federal Plaza) and was taken to Bellevue Hospital, and then for about 24-48 hours none of us knew where he was
- They had sent him down to Florida, but thankfully his lawyers were able to get him brought back to NYC, but he is still in detention

Donna

- 2 demonstrations as a package to be endorsed
 - DACA related, Fighting for Our Rights to Stay/Speak Out
 - Thursday 75 Avenue Place, Battery Park

- It's a vigil to honor the DACA recipients and their courage
- Friday 12-2 Washington Sq Park Jummah Prayer
 - Anniversary of the ban coming into effect and people going to JFK
 - To Honor the millions that are suffering still from the ban and empower those working to undo it
 - The allies will be building a wall around Muslims to allow them to pray while being protected

Vote for endorsement: Passed potentially unanimously

Renaldo

Immigration meets Thursday at the Center, 304, 7pm!

Women's March

Elka, Marlene, Ivy

Elka

- If someone could speak about the group that entered at 61st, I (elka) was not with them
- Some went with GAG
- Many met around 72nd and entered the march together (around 50 ppl)
- Were in comms with Tim to bring banner for the disabilities group

Marlene

- We had our banner on NBC nightly news
- When we turned down 6th ave, there were officers who escorted us down the route for a while

Phillip

- I went to the march to be with the disability caucus, and they didn't need me as a buddy, but we were right in front of the stage for all the presenters
- I had great conversations with many of the people in the group

Donna

- There were lots of disabled people and they were escorted to the front to really lead the march which was amazing to see

H

- Handed out 1000 flyers for anti-IDC to people that seemed very interested
- The crowd started chanting Down with the IDC based on the Elections Group's signs

Ivy

- We are curious to know how the group feels about the plan to split between the multiple locations, since it was a hard decision.
- Moving forward we want to try to get each of the working groups to have their messaging reflected under our banner

Elka

- It wasn't our action, so we did have to make sure we were following the rules and information being given to us by their organizers
- We made about \$300 selling buttons
- We made an announcements to encourage

Jake

- I think we need to come up with a better system for having handouts at each of our actions

Livvie

- If I ended up with signage who should I give it to?
 - Ivy
 - Comms storage/Dann Ramirez

Sherie

- Why did we have three not just the two meeting places?
 - Elka
 - We wanted our group to meet outside the setup area and people were concerned about how early GAG was meeting, and even then we did end up waiting on many people
 - Jay
 - And we did end up having the info change the day of about able bodied people using the 61st St location, that cops were stopping large groups that tried to enter there
 - Mark M
 - The way I found people was by texting Ivy, so maybe we should have a contact person for these kinds of marches to help people find us along the way.
 - Elka
 - It took a really long time for people to actually be able to catch up to us even if they knew where we were.
 - Marlene
 - We might want to go later actually, to avoid standing in place for that long
 - Andy
 - We did put out some periodic updates via our social media as to our location
 - Media/Comms are the best ones to reach out to, either by email or by direct message on Facebook or Twitter, which are reviewed by multiple people
 - Jamie
 - With the March as with 4th of July, when there are that many people in one place, cell signals are jammed
 - The best bet is to try to get to the place as reliably on time as possible

- Or get ahead of the march and join us as we get to a place
- Mary
 - If we had a section in the back for people who were lazy/late I would have used it
- Leslie
 - I was able to get with the group earlier, but when to meet my daughter and knew I wouldn't get back
 - The backdrop of this is that the police were so present
 - This is new and that is why we are having such logistical issues
 - These kinds of marches were often about feeling of being a part of such a community/numbers
 - If we had just taken over Central Park instead (half-kidding)
- Dann
 - We could use balloons or tall signs in order to find our group

Ivy

- We need to figure out our message more in advance
- Comms were great with supporting us and fixing issues with short notice
- Disabilities wise now that we have a contact we can do a lot more to address these issues

Elka

- There is a women's social activism film club starting, reach out to Elka for more

Comms

Andy

- I second the suggestion about having handouts anytime we're in public
- Comms has been handing out quarter sheet flyers and discussing doing something more business card size
- We can also send out PDFs of our regular used signs
- If you need anything printed/copy you can always try emailing since some of RAR work in offices where they can print things
- For anyone with great photos, news attention, etc, please send to Comms so we can signal boost it. media@riseandresist.org

20 minute Teach-In - Angie Kears, widow of Andrew who died in police custody

<https://www.usnews.com/news/best-states/new-york/articles/2017-07-02/wife-police-didnt-act-fast-enough-to-save-husband>

<http://observer.com/2017/05/bronx-andrew-kears-schenectady-death-police-custody-schneiderman/>

- Elka

We meet her in November when we were planning the BLM children's march

There will be an event in memoriam on Feb 10th

- Andrew Kears
- Died May 11th in Schenectady NY by police misconduct
- 8 months that he's gone

I saw the videotape of him 3 weeks ago, what I saw was the most horrific thing that I have ever seen.

I please ask each of you to make sure to reach out to your loved ones and make sure to let them know how you feel as much as possible

He was in Schenectady, NY, visiting a friend. It was a random traffic stop because they said that he went through a red light. He ran, and I don't know why, so please don't ask me. But as we have seen in the news men of color have good reason to be afraid of police, and that is no excuse for what happened.

He had just come home from 2 years in incarceration and was only out for 15 days when this occurred. So that may have influenced why he was afraid/ran.

When they caught him, it was behind a house, and he had said “you hurt me, you broke my leg, I can’t get up and I can’t breath”

The Police weren’t doing anything to request medical assistance. Andrew was a big man, 6’2”, 270lbs, so 3 officers lifted him to put him in the rear of the cop car

He’s yelling to the officers that he cannot breath, “Officer help me!, Please I’m begging you!” He cried for help over 100 times. And the officer says you shouldn’t have run then. So he asked the cop to open the window and he said no Andrew then said “My body is getting numb” At no point did the officer say “do you need help?” or call the ambulance

Even in this unfair position, the whole time Andrew was pleading and did not get belligerent.

You could see the color of his face changing in the video, and the officer was not responsive to his request. As a human being how did he not deserve help?!

He died 1 minute before they got to the police station, he slumped and stopped talking, and he is twitching.

His hands were handcuffed behind his back throughout.

The officer hit a bump driving and the video shows that his body has flipped over and he has died.

When the officer gets to the station he still has not realized that Andrew has died. He does not check for a pulse, he just begins instructing Andrew to get up, and 2 officers come to drag him from the car limp and put him on the pavement.

They did eventually begin compressions, but did not do CPR/breaths.

Several officers arrive. One with defibrillator, and some with coffee, spectating.

The officer begins to cry on his cruiser and the other police console him and send him inside

The Attorney General said the officer is still on the job, he's light skinned African American, he's been on the job 4 years, and he was in the military

Andrew Kearse

(9 children, 3 stepchildren, and 5 grandchildren)

He was 36 years old.

Please come to the march, it will be peaceful, with candles, and I want to be able to be face to face with the officer to ask him how he could have ignored those pleas.

No Andrew wasn't shot or attacked, but this was a murder. He was denied the care he needed to survive.

There will be 3 buses to Schenectady, it's already posted on the RAR Facebook, follow up with Elka.

Healthcare

Mark M

The majority of the administration should be present

Hinay - works at Center for Popular Democracy

A week from Wednesday, buses will be going to W. Va, every GOP member of Congress at the Greenbrier

It is one of the most upscale resorts in the world, it's a gated compound, but it's in a very economically depressed town and many of the locals are not in favor of the administration

Bringing people to Charleston, W Va, to do a small action at the steps of their town hall

With a speak out with local and national figures

Thursday taking buses to White Silver Springs, to a rally and a march to the Greenbrier

Hands off schools, teachers, healthcare, etc

To oppose the agenda of the Trump Admin

Facebook event

Tell Congress Hands Off

bit.ly/greenbriersignup

Buses will leave probably 6 am

Sign up through Mark Milano or

<http://bit.ly/greenbriersignup>

vinayrk28@gmail.com

Facilitator Training

- Open to everyone in the group, especially the 10 who are already involved, but also to anyone else who wants to try
- 2-5 reserved, but is expected to run 2-4
- There is a sign up sheet for those who aren't already involved
- There is a PDF of a lesbian training guide, or a hard copy to get from Jaime
- Please look at it ahead of time of the training

Straw poll: About 10 more people interested

Vague State of Disgrace Action

Jamie

If you are interested to participate it will not definitely necessitate arrest, please reach out to Jamie

Ray will be doing support and arranging legal for those who might opt to be risking arrest

Reflection on 2017

Feb 3rd, 2-4 at the Center

The 3rd and likely final part of the 2017 reflection and goal setting for RAR into 2018

Reach out to Jay or Donna

Impeach Actions

Report back on Winter Garden/Oculus + upcoming actions

Scott/Lorenzo

People came in costume as animals and Mother Earth, etc

We assembled on the staircase and read off the Trump admin's crimes against the Earth/nature

We then walked down and out through the Oculus

Security expected us and were pretty cooperative with our action

Thanks to Tom, Betsy, Julie, Jake, Wroloph, Robert, Eliot, Jamie, Alexis, Tom,

Upcoming Action

Understanding our role and our use of public spaces to protest, and taking spaces that had not been used before and helping to open them to become known spaces for protest

This helps us with visibility, etc,

We are going to go to Fox Plaza again for this week

We have already had an argument with the police about the public vs private space, but after some research, showed that isn't true

Jamie now has an email from the Dept of City Planning explaining that the entire plaza is public space

We will be able to do our demonstration right in front of Fox (48th and 6th ave, 1211 6th ave)

Dann

This week the theme of our impeachment action is racism so we are targeting Fox News, so please join us from 5:30-6:30

Youth Caucus

Meeting every other Saturday

Having been meeting for dinner but might do a social event like bowling

Finance

Balance is \$10,834

We have been discussing a Martin Luther King Jr Day action that Youth Caucus did

Isha

On Monday, the 15th, MLK Day, the Youth Caucus was at the Jericho Walk at Washington Sq Park endorsed through the ERT (which I am on)

Walking around in prayer/meditation

Because we wanted to provide a supportive service to the New Sanctuary Group for self-care for them

And they said they could use granola bars, water, hand warmers, cough drops, for their people to support them after Ravi was detained

Technically food items are not covered but this was not for the Youth Caucus to eat, but to donate as a service

Andy

We got the reimbursement request and we were thrilled to support our coalition members and we want to thank the Youth Caucus for being proactive and finding a way for us to support New Sanctuary

As a general rule we have not allowed reimbursement to cover food for RAR members, but we did approve this expense with that context

finance@riseandresist.org

ERT

Wroloph:

- Approved the Youth committee ally action to provide food, water, etc. Approved elevator action. Approved change

Vote was approved to approve all recent ERT votes

Future Teach in suggestions/options

Ray

Ann for Media Training

Jamie

Impeachment is a real thing and what that takes as opposed to how we talk about it as a want

Jeremiah

HousingWorks to maybe come in for BirdDog training on the main floor

Annette

Single payer/Medicare for all, in context of NY and also federal

Facilitation is willing to do some organize in terms of tracking this and helping to make it happen

Donna

The History of Immigration in the US

Criminal (In)justice

Jake

Education group used to do this but we are willing to help make this happen

Education@riseandresist.org could be the repository for these suggestions

H

Eric Schneiderman (Attorney General for NYS)

New Actions

Andy

Book Club

Read and Resist

Couple options of first books we might do

When they call you a terrorist, Leslie Kauffman's book

Straw poll for the first date Sunday, 2/25 or 3/4

To be held at the LGBT Center

John

Could you do reading list for articles also maybe?

Andy

Yes, definitely if people have articles that they want to share

We may even be adding a “resources” tab on our website

Mark M

I won a lawsuit against a doctor who turned me away for being HIV positive

US Dept of Justice initiated a lawsuit, the judge gave us a summary judgment for the discrimination

HousingWorks will be supporting a trial

Jake

Pride

Outreach for groups for building a resistance contingent

The best way is to go to the actual meetings of the groups so we need as many volunteers as possible

Wrolph

Since I've been working a lot with the printing I am willing to help people who are looking to have palm cards printed up for handouts at our actions

Jamie

President's Day possible actions

Action Group to be discussed, 6pm at the Center on Wednesdays

NON RAR Announcements

There's an impeachment Action on Saturday, will RAR be attending?

Ray/Jay

It was discussed 2 weeks ago, but there hasn't been any further approvals about it, so i don't think so

Paula (from Black Lives Matter of Greater NY)

Head of Youth Coalition

At every meeting or protest we end in the Assata Shakur chant

[It is our duty to fight for our freedom
It is our duty to win
We must love and protect each other
We have nothing to lose but our chains]