

## RAR Minutes

3-13-18

Facilitators: Elka, Jennifer B

Timekeeper: none

Notes: Alex L

### Group contact information

- Website: [www.riseandresist.org](http://www.riseandresist.org)
- Email list signup <http://eepurl.com/cCzq1X>
- Twitter: [www.twitter.com/RiseandResistNY](https://www.twitter.com/RiseandResistNY)
- Facebook: [www.facebook.com/RiseandResistNYC/](https://www.facebook.com/RiseandResistNYC/)
- Instagram: [www.instagram.com/risenresistnyc/](https://www.instagram.com/risenresistnyc/)
- General email: [info@riseandresist.org](mailto:info@riseandresist.org)
- Press email: [media@riseandresist.org](mailto:media@riseandresist.org)
- Meetings: Every Tuesday at 7pm at the Church of the Village, 201 W 13th St.

### Meeting Notes

- Welcome/Introduction
  - Reviewing norms; Greeter for tonight: Rachel;
  - Jay acting as our floating facilitator for the night.
  - No working journalists or police self-identified when asked
- Welcome new members
- Change in the agenda, guest speaker will be speaking around 7:30pm instead
- Jennifer suggested to have one person share a good thing that happened to them this week, inspired by MaryEllen
  - No one volunteers, Jennifer encouraged everyone to look at MaryEllen's Facebook to see her announcement

### New Actions Proposals

- Elections
  - Alex B
  - Social media training around how to use Twitter to engage politically
    - March 18th
    - 256 W 28th St
    - Working Families Party is hosting the event
    - From 1-4pm

- Livvie
  - United Thru Action meeting will be happening nearby at 5pm at Greenwich House on Barrow St
  - Please come meet anti-IDC candidate
- Mark H
  - April 13th and 14th
  - There's a NYC conference around Healthcare and Organizing at CUNY Murphy Institute for Labor Studies in Midtown
  - Registration is \$40 and there are scholarships available
  - Social Media and lots of digital education

### Immigration Teach-In

#### Jody Intro

Met the speaker on a cold day in January in Battery Park who had been the one to organize everyone, while having her child on her chest, and also came up and gave her own speech. She is a Doctoral candidate, a classical pianist, and fierce immigrant advocate

#### Speaker - Tereza Lee

Thank you everyone for being here, to see this many people in physical presence is really powerful, it's about the people who \*show up\* and use their people power to resist.

Named after Mother Teresa, born in Brazil, but were S. Korean immigrants, and her parents were victims of the destruction of the Korean war.

"War destroys lives"

Her father grew up in Seoul, and before the current growing of the city, he lived in a shack with US tanks going past with canned food and Christian bibles and you would be expected to convert to get the food. This is an example of American Imperialism.

Once her parents converted they were a part of the large migration to S. America.

Thereza and her brother were both born in Brazil, but their family was robbed and they had to sell all their possessions to move to the US.

Moved to Chicago and lived in complete destitution in a basement apartment with no heat, pest infestations, having to wear clothes till they were tearing apart, etc.

I share this to be in solidarity with others who have the same story.

We also have in common with other immigrants a distrust for many people like teachers,

police, etc, for how they might disrupt and break apart our family. How we had nightmares that they could come in and take my parents away, and my brother is still even at risk of deportation because of our undocumented status.

Also for the undocumented people who are not able to show up in the streets or are not able to vote because of their status, so it is imperative that we show up for them and advocate for better policy.

The last time that any legislation was made to address the broken immigration system was in the 50's, and even the amnesty during the Reagan admin was not law just policy.

She began playing piano at 7 in the church in Chicago where her father was a pastor. Because of this a very wealthy woman saw her ability and their quality of life and purchased them furniture and a piano. Her father then worked with her daily to practice and she became the church's fulltime pianist. She then went on to win citywide piano competitions and was the first to play a Tchaikovsky piece in it.

She was approached by one of her teachers to ask about what college she planned to attend, Thereza had told her that she did not plan to go to college and would just be becoming a concert pianist right away. The teacher helped to prepare applications for Thereza and even became an ally in helping her to find a route to citizenship, even reaching out to Sen Durbin's office in IL, and when the office said that she would have to be deported to Brazil (her place of birth), her teacher was able to help her get an artists' visa and letters of recommendation.

Some of these donors and supporters even knew Sen Durbin's wife directly, and so he created a bill specifically to create a path to citizenship for Thereza. Once others heard of the bill they began to also petition Sen Durbin for help, and that bill became revised to create the "Dream Act" for citizenship.

But it has been 17 years since 2001 when that was first created, but what happened? 9/11 and the "War on Terror" ignited a fear of immigrants and Islamophobia. The initial hearing had been scheduled for 9/12 and was expected to pass with 62 votes once brought out of committee, but once the attack happened, the hearing was canceled and not rescheduled for years.

Instead, the war became the priority and fear was stoked in order to justify our involvement. Department of Homeland Security funding and creation was directly caused by this, as were the border walls at the Mexican border, etc.

So, our responsibility is to combat this fear with LOVE. To take part in our current

Underground Railroad system and help immigrants to feel welcome and seen. To be inclusive and intersectional, (race, gender, sexuality, etc), to have respect for each other and know that we are on the same side in wanting to create a better world for our fellow community members, American citizens and not.

We have to keep training and showing up and especially supporting the youth! We may not have the experience, but we have the energy and the momentum, and just need others to join us. Because of the Dreamers we have any of the progress that we have won since 2001!!

Thank you for being here and thank you for listening  
(Applause)

### Questions

Lynn

In 2007 and the economy crashed, what was the effect and the difficulty of getting jobs for the immigrant community?

A: 2007 was actually a big year and the Dream Act was reintroduced, but mostly because the Pentagon wanted it to have the surge and get more immigrant youth to enlist for 2 years to get a path to citizenship. However, the bill still didn't pass. There was also a site called "Take Your Jobs?" that challenged Americans to do the ungracious farm work and hard jobs that were supposedly stolen and people wouldn't

Mel

We are seeing a lot of ppl going in to Sanctuary now because of the immigration situation, so I go every week to support a woman in Harlem who is in sanctuary. So I wonder what I would or should do if ICE were to show up?

A: My brother who is undocumented, so we are prepared to 1. Not Open the door, 2. Don't give them any info,  
When ICE approaches us we make sure to immediately take our phones out and start recording, documenting the entire scene and having it to share for accountability

Stu

Other than individual actions, do you think mass actions against ICE are useful or counterproductive?

A: I think it's useful in the sense that it attracts media attention and gets people engaged with government. Also that on social media, etc, that it helps people to show up in numbers and show the immigrant communities that the support is there and that people care for them.

In my experience when I have called Deportation Centers they will just try to say "Sorry I can't help you" but if we call enough they have to do something to address our calls, so they are forced to change

Annette

Thank you for your comments on the war, now that March 5th has passed with no action is there another specific date to look at?

A: March 23rd is the next date to look at for the continuing resolution so if the Dream Act is not attached to the spending bill then things will be bad.

There's also a group called Seed Project that works with harvest workers' rights that are planning something for next week. Also Forward US or United We Dream.

Donna

Do you think that there is a beginning of a movement to abolish ICE?

A: Absolutely! We are learning that the "War on Terror" was unnecessary and based on lies, so ICE was created under false pretenses, so for sure

Alexis

I wanted to make sure to let you know that we do skill building workshops for CD and marshalling in case you might need those

A: I've definitely become a believer in CD and was arrested earlier this year at Sen Schumer's' office protesting his inaction around the Dream Act and the fact that if he brought it to vote he could almost definitely pass it

Harris

What is most pressing that we could be doing to help?

A: Right now I think the best target is Trump and maybe Melania since she has a softer spot for undocumented immigrants, so definitely tweet at them both

Alex B

The Youth Caucus is organizing a video series to try to get young and old people involved more, we would love to activate any contacts you have if possible.

(Applause for Thereza)

Immigration will be following up on Thereza speaking

Enrico

The next date to remember, March 15th at 4 PM in Foley Square

The Legal Aid Society will be doing a walk out to protest ICE's access to NYC criminal courts

The same evening New Sanctuary Coalition will be gathering at Foley Square to bike to the ICE headquarters in NYC

Also for March 21st there will be a poster party for the March 29th Impeach Action  
From 7-9

Email: [rar.immigration@gmail.com](mailto:rar.immigration@gmail.com)

Will be meeting on March 22nd for their regular meeting

Donna

It is imperative that we push back against ICE, and these are the actions that we are sharing on Thursday, so we need to please show up to help build coalition and relationship to support others who are also doing this important work

Mel

One of the names to be aware of for ICE is Thomas Holeman, he is an ex-cop, and some of his quotes are just appalling. He is someone we should target for actions and actively oppose.

Jennifer V

Speaking for Jeanne about the Tom Cat action on immigrant rights, who allowed ICE to come into their facility and terrorize their workers who had been there for decades.

Two asks

- Today South by Southwest is going on, and Alex Raij is giving a speech as a chef and building restaurants and all her locations serve Tom Cat bread. There are two

restaurants nearby to the Church to be able to go to to ask to speak to a manager about the problems with Tom Cat.

- Txikito and El Quinto Pinto

- The other ask is that there has been a flurry of tweets to Alex Ríaj since she is speaking about the #MeToo movement in restaurants, that we tweet at her to make her aware of the immigrant issues

- @alex\_raij

John W

You can't really tell how to know if the bread at a restaurant is Tom Cat, so it's pretty easy to go to retail bakeries instead that have the packaging on that make it more obvious to then be able to talk to managers about the issue.

## Report Backs

Impeach - past and upcoming

- Martin
  - Union Square for the first time to be close to the Women's Day action at Wash Sq Park
  - Handed out placards to passerbys
  - Not having a moving picket doesn't play as well for streaming views
  - But a reporter from Politico came and said he planned to include quotes in a piece in April
  - Also definitely could use some fresh graphics and imagery
- Dann
  - Impeach Hats!!
- Alexandra and Mark
  - Healthcare themed
  - To be outside of Harlem hospital
  - Towncriers will likely be medical staff costumes
  - Miriam has been creating a chronological list of the impeachable offenses
  - We are also thinking about doing a pop up clinic outside of the hospital to demonstrate what these kinds of policies are pushing for
  - We want to do this for the 22nd because it will be near to the anniversary for the signing of the ACA, and though it isn't perfect, it has been great in getting people coverage
- We'll be sculpting the messaging and signs throughout the week

- There will also be a Immigration theme for the week after, and a Russian themed action the week following
- Straw poll to see if the time might be better from 6-7pm based on the extended light as the year goes on

## Comments

Jamie

As a frequent flyer at Impeach, what do we need to do to get more people out? If moving the time will help then let's please do it, but that it might be more about how to keep up the energy every week, etc.

Elka

How many more people might be able to go if we changed the time?

At least 5 raised their hands

Martin

I feel that 10-40 ppl show up each week and it ranges but I do think people feel that it is a helpful and necessary action so this may help. And it does generally get good traction online.

Livvie

I wonder if we could change the flyers per the topic of the week, rather than having just the general ones?

Dianne

I do think that the warmer weather will make a big difference.

Mari

We don't necessarily have to re-design the flyer each time, we could print up stickers for each new info

Straw poll

Keep the old time - 11

New time - 17

Either/or/both - ?

Merch on sale at the back of the room



## Nan Goldin, Sackler Met Action

- LA
  - This Saturday the group held an action in the Sackler wing of the Met, the wing being named after the family that own the Pharma company that produce and push OxyContin
  - We snuck in 1K specially made pill bottles and flyers and signs and dumped them into the moat and held a die-in
  - Nan gave a very powerful speech as a mic check
  - It included a lot of people directly affected by the opioid epidemic
  - There was a lot of embedded media, including Dan Golden, and there has been a lot of great media coverage
  - Called for the Sackler family to move millions of dollars into treatment
  - They ended the action by saying “we’ll be back”
  - This is a new group that is just getting started but they are definitely interested in more people getting involved
  - SacklerPain.org, also on Twitter and Instagram
- Jennifer
  - Are they targeting doctors at all? Since it’s sometimes easy to get pain meds from doctors
  - And did they tip the person who was made to clean up the pill bottles?
  - A: The clean up was not very intense necessarily and the person cleaning it up is likely a salaried employee.
  - Also they are planning to specifically target the Sackler family especially
- Alexandra
  - As someone who works in harm reduction I thought that Nan did a great job of giving the message
- Phil
  - I am curious to know how security was?
  - A: It was mostly fine, but only one guard tried to really actively intervene but when a supervisor showed up that was fine. And they called NYPD but the cops never came in, they just waited outside. Some security were even so nice to give us our banners back

## Announce the civil disobedience training and Book Club

- Alexis
  - This is the first CD training of 2018

- In partnership with democratic socialists of america
- 11am this Saturday- NYU meeting- Vanderbilt hall. Room 212. 5 hour training
- More to come
- Jake: NYC Pride March Efforts
  - No organized Resistance Contingent
  - There will only be one contingent, the POC one
  - Because they think it “will dilute the importance of the resistance to have us all grouped”
  - Jake and other coalition members went to HOP and tried to talk
  - He was appointed to be the main contact for the activist community of NYC to HOP
  - The main point of issues was about the police presence and how to accommodate people
  - We made our demand clear that if police would like to march they should not wear their uniforms
  - And that the step off should not have paddy wagons and assault rifle officers
  - We were hoping to create a community forum for the Queers to interact with NYPD
  - Since there will not be this contingent we now have a few decisions to make:
    - We registered pretty early, so we are likely to be towards the front since we registered early
    - But we may be in between two floats and corporate entities, etc
    - There is a talk of forming a “Counter Pride”
  -
- Questions
  - Jamie
    - Why can't we just create our own resistance contingent under Rise and Resist anyway? And invite our 200 besties and reorganize once we get to get into the order
    - A: anyone in the march will have to be wearing a bracelet this year, so there will be a hard limit of 200, and the police will not allow anyone in without one
  - Jackie
    - Can't we have Gays Against Guns with us?
    - A: They will be their own separate group somewhere else in the precession, and it would be unlikely that they would be next to us

- Jeremiah
  - Is there a plan for further conversation for our activist community?  
What if we use our wristbands with GAGs to be sneaky, etc?
  - A:
- Mark M
  - I think the wristband thing is a line in the sand and I refuse to wear a wristband and maybe we get 1000 ppl at the front of the march and make the police arrest us if they so choose

5 min limit for other agenda items

- Jay
  - We could do many things, but Pride really cares about the corporate floats and the ones that give them money, even though GAG was on the front of the NY Times
  - A: And all the media featured our Resistance Banner!  
Michael P for No Justice No Pride will also be organizing a community forum for planning, and Act Up, GAG, and RAR are in comms about this consistently
- Kellen
  - I think we should stop the parade if it starts with a bunch of floats
- Andy
  - Can you let us know when the next HOP meeting is?
  - Also can we have a Pride working group?
  - Can someone also explain why the wristbands are so objectionable?
  - A: The next meeting will be posted on Heritage of Pride's website
- Michael
  - There needs to be a counterprotest for sure, but just to observe how things happened last year with the die-ins, etc, so for any action that is planned I would say not to identify who is planning an action because the police will babysit groups that have espoused this to try to stop it
- Brody
  - Can you give detail about HoP?
  - A: They have 10 full time staff and many volunteers, they own Pride and they only have a seasonal full meeting otherwise their meetings are internal only
- Jay

- The reason that the wristbands were objectionable is that this is the latest in a constraintment for the March
- And that participation used to be so easy and self-volunteering
- A: Jake, yes also this year the march is starting in the village and going uptown this year and cuts off at 26th(?)
  - They have also made a positive step to limit corporate groups to only 200 as well, rather than the 800 that often would be there
- Ivy
  - They meet every month when the March gets closer, and even more as it gets closer
  - Also, where does all the money that they get go?
  - A: I can look it up and give the info in a manner of minutes, just FYI

## Book Club

3/25, Sunday at 3-5pm at the LGBT Center

## Youth Caucus

- Jeremiah
  - "Faculty Advisor"
  - Our regular meetings will be happening at the Centers, Sunday at 12pm this week
- Alex B
  - We are creating a video project to connect experienced and new activists
- J
  - For those that were invited and responded, we will be moving forward with scheduling
    - We have also reached out to outside groups and coalition members
  - For Parkland things coming up please make sure that for anything that students are leading, to be invited by them
  - We are also working to do a Weekly Impeach around this theme, so please reach out to us at [rar.youth@gmail.com](mailto:rar.youth@gmail.com) to coordinate

## Upcoming Actions

### The Easter Parade

- Dianne
  - Costume and prop making session TBD
  - There will be a leaflet for environmental issues

## Gays Against Guns

- Jennifer/Jay
  - Picture of Human Being featured on slides
  - March for Our Lives
    - March 24th
    - GAG is splitting between DC and NYC march, there will be a group going to the NRA HQ in Fairfax VA on Friday for an action
    - For DC for Saturday morning, the bus will be leaving at 7 AM and arrive right around when the march begins
      - DC's GAG chapter arranged a permit for the park at the end of the route of the march, which is only about 10 blocks long
      - Reach out to Jay directly to sign up for DC:  
jayw.walker@gmail.com
    - NYC will be very similar to the Women's March, at 72nd St and over the same route to 43rd St
      - Starting at 10 am
      - People are encouraged to sign up to march as Human Beings
        - Human Beings are dressed in all white and memorialize victims of gun violence and stay silent/carry a sign for the whole march
        - We are looking to try to have teens definitely involved to portray the victims
      - They wanted to originally have only the 17 in the march to commemorate the Parkland victims, but GAG members who met Emma Gonzalez were asked by her to include others as well, especially minorities that have been affected by gun violence
      - Gun violence and ableism and discrimination against disabled people are a huge problem, especially since most people killed by police generally have a disability of some kind
      - There will also be a RAR contingent to work with folks in the healthcare field (Mark H)
        - Led by Doctors for America, the National Physicians' Alliance, etc,

- Contingent to declare that gun violence is a public health issue and that the Dickey Amendment needs to be repealed to fund gun violence research
- Some states are stepping forward to fund their own research even (NY and NYC both are working on this)
- NYC has “Guns Down, Lives Up” to create a holistic harm reduction model
- The Doctors group is willing to write excuse notes for students that are participating in these demonstrations

Alexis

Marshal training and helping with marshalling for 3/24 march

Virginia

There are also some spots on the Friday morning bus for those who might have somewhere to stay in DC Friday night, to avoid cutting it close on Sat Morning

Wrolph

For anyone else with kids in public school, there was an email that went out asking for an excuse note to participate in the walk out for 3/14

Media/EAG T-shirt

- Andy
  - Immigration did a demonstration today and they have an updated page on the website
  - A number of the High Schools participating in Walk Outs are requesting amplification via social media
    - Andy will be covering Bard in LIC and livestreaming at 10am
    - If someone could help to livestream from other locations tomorrow at 10am, email [media@riseandresist.org](mailto:media@riseandresist.org)
    - There will also be an action in Washington Square Park that will be a large collection of several schools
  - There is a new “Elevators are for Everyone” shirt on the online store
  - Shout out to the Youth Caucus for connecting us with these actions and advocating for the student led

Finance

Andy/Rob

- \$311 for rent
- Net worth is \$3100, a decrease of \$700
- The floor voted to keep a buffer of \$4000, so we will now be below that when we writes the checks owed
- Copies of the statement are available at the back at the end of the meeting
- For those who don't have cash for the bags for rent, we can also process credit card and online interactions

## Non RAR Actions

Elka

There will be a march in Harlem to commemorate Dr MLK Jr on the anniversary of his death, April 4th

Go to [www.tothepromisedland.com](http://www.tothepromisedland.com)