

RAR Minutes

Facilitators: Jamie and John B

Timekeeper: none

Notes: Alex L

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.

Meeting Notes

- Welcome/Introduction
 - Reviewed norms, asked if any law enforcement or journalists were present (none self-identified, reminder that that does not mean that they are not present), read mission statement.
 - Our floating facilitator for the night is not present.
- Welcome new members

Zach

- Talking about an experience in DC, on last Tuesday he was acquitted by a jury of charges of disrupting the US Senate
- 12:30am on 12/20, 12 people were arrested protesting the Tax Bill
- Diversion was the expected outcome, similar to an ACD
- That was not what happened, so he was offered either pleading guilty to misdemeanor or go to trial
- Decided to go to trial to hold the system accountable
- The trial went to 2 newby prosecutors as a training experience
- Thought that he could use a "necessity defense" to justify it
- In the DC courts people are not able to argue the above, the judges will now allow you to call witnesses for that

- He was advised to represent himself, with his lawyer nearby to consult for advice, and that that would have the court give him more wiggle room to plead his case
- Representing yourself was very taxing and required a lot of rehearsal and flexibility for work schedule
- It was interesting to try to speak to a jury and have to convince them
- My attempts to politicize the trial and get them to ignore the judge's directions not to focus on the specific charges but on the context of the Trump administration failed. Even though the jury were very sympathetic politically they felt that they needed to stick to the direction
- Don't assume that that police can actually prove what they are accusing you of
 - The witnesses for the case said they had not been able to identify Zach as the specific defendant
- I had to make the case that the rules required, rather than the moral case I had planned, but thankfully I have been acquitted

Jamie

- Having spoken about this with Zach personally this was good because it kept him out of about 4 months of probation

Zach

- I am really glad that I did take it to trial

Mel

- What was it like cross examining the witnesses?
- Zach
- It was really hard, trying to figure out how to frame the questions, etc. But I was also upfront about that this was new to me, and the judge was good about helping me to reframe them as necessary

Mary

- I have been keeping tabs on the protesters in Durham, NC who felled a racist statue, and their case is similar to yours. The sheriff has witnesses who can't specifically identify the accused, and the video only captured the back of people's heads mostly, etc. Is this a very common occurrence of them having fudgy evidence but pursuing a case?

Zach

- Often they don't have the best evidence or might even lie about the evidence that they say that they have

New Actions

Mueller Action

Wroff/Andy

- RaR is a part of a NYC coalition to prepare a protest if Mueller is fired. It's part of a nationwide campaign led by MoveOn.org
- We are ready to deter Trump if he takes any of a series of particularly bad actions, especially after the threatening tweets this weekend
- We have about 25-30 groups in NYC that will join if this action becomes needed. We will all join at 5pm day of at the red steps in Times Square to show our numbers and to prove how serious this is. There will then be a march to Union Square, and some bullhorns and speaking will occur once we reach the space there, as well as encouraging everyone to bring their signs and to be ready to chant and demonstrate
- Likely there will be ongoing actions in Union Square daily until the problem would resolve
- There will hopefully be at least 4 channels of communication so that the message is well received

Jamie

- **This was already voted on back in July on the floor**, so we just wanted to make sure that everyone was up to date

Andy

- Also there is a new hands off Mueller shirt in the store, please check it out!
 - <https://store.riseandresist.org/products/hand-off-mueller-black-short-sleeve-unisex-t-shirt>

Jamie

- This week when we were making the agenda people had asked for the new actions to be moved up to earlier in the meeting, so we are trying this this week

Wroff

- I got the information that the NRA was holding a fundraiser in Brooklyn, and they had already been kicked out of their first location and relocated to the Grand Prospect Hall
- I posted to the the Get Organized Brooklyn group and immediately they sprung into action, and elected officials got involved and reporters began calling.
- After an initial interview, the planner did say that they are going to cancel it
- But the event is still on, so our info is that they are planning to reschedule and only let people know a few days in advance

- I am asking for cosponsorship an action in coalition with GOBK, Indivisible, Young Democrats, etc
- The action would include an outside action
- For the outside action it would hopefully have teens coming from schools to memorialize the victims of Parkland and that we would hopefully help to marshal
 - I don't know that they will necessarily need support in the comms dept
 - It is expected, for now, to be unpermitted and unsound enhanced as a demo

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- What would be the date?

Wrolf

- There is not a set one yet

Vote Passes in Favor of Coalition

Additional information about the NRA was redacted from these notes. Please email info@riseandresist.org for more information.

Bannon Action

- There is going to be a conference about media that Bannon will be leading a panel at on Thursday
- 60 Columbus Circle at the Time Warner building (60th St)
- We want to focus on the Financial Times giving him this platform to speak and flyer from the outside asking people not to attend or if they do to disrupt or ignore Bannon
- We would like to demo at two times
 - People are coming in for breakfast at 8-9am, so get them when people are entering
 - And Bannon is speaking around 4-5pm
- Questions
- Livvie
 - Do you have flyers to hand out?
- K
 - Yes, we want to include his quote from France about letting people call you a racist and wearing it proudly
- John W
 - In the spirit of what Andy was saying, there is a post in the Facebook group that gives the contact info for the head of the Financial Times to reach out directly and say wtf to them
 - The head of CNN and the NYTimes
- Mark H
 - Will the impending storm cause any change in plans?

- A: No, neither rain nor sleet nor snow will stop us! But it's expected that they would clear the snow if the event goes on
- -
- The impeach action would be at the same time, isn't that a conflict?
- A: The impeach for this Thursday will be cancelled because of the snow

Vote Passes for both to be RAR actions

Stu

Recruitment Tables

- Planning for when the weather gets nicer, how to get more people involved
- A lot of people are hesitant to get involved and transition from Facebook to onto the street
- *showing the room a table with posters*
 - "Stop shouting at the TV, join us" "The Resistance wants you", etc
- March 31st, Saturday, around 12pm
- waldman@makaya.com
- If we get enough people I'd even like to schedule shifts of 2 hours or so
- Also, I found a table that goes in a bag, so it is very portable to take all around
- So we can go to other locations so we not only get more people but more diversity

Martin

I love your messaging, could we use it for our other purposes?

Impeach

Mark H

We have been working with health worker unions, especially with Harlem Hospital, but since the schools are already closed for tomorrow because of the snow the Hospital has asked that we re-schedule

This will hopefully actually be helpful in finding more coalition in Harlem

Alexandra

We have a great script put together by Miriam of all the impeachable actions done by Trump, month by month, against the Affordable Care Act (ACA/"Obamacare")

We also have a Spanish language version of our flyer

Mark H

There will also be a tax day action, Tuesday April 17th from 5-7pm, a People's Tax Day Action

There will be a lot of educational components about the new law

We are also putting together a photobooth with RAR theme

Questions

Dann

Are we voting on the Tax Day thing today?

Mark

No, we had already approved it, just the date/time changed

Martin

Also for last week's action we had about 15-20 ppl who were marching led by Jamie

We also had a band with us which was nice

We may replace the action for this week with something with the band

Mark H

I don't know what the specifics are for the action planned, but if we could find a way to put Impeach into that?

Jamie

We would rather to keep our messaging clear and focused on the issue with the Financial Times

Martin

There is a guest from Impeach Nyet I want to introduce, it is a "Russian Bot" (Phil in a robot costume)

Immigration

Wendy

- March 15th, ICE out of the Courts
- It was a great action and it came from Donna meeting the President of the Legal Aid Society and she had said after meeting with us that she would be writing a letter to the head officer of the NYC Courts
- This woman would have the ability to block ICE from the courts and so the action was incase she did not take action or decided against us
- She took no action, so we went and flyer and got about 78 signed letters from passersby of support
- We ended up taking over Beaver St and shutting it down and announced our event for March 29th as well

Alvin

- We are planning a "Fire the Racist" action for March 29th
 - It will be happening in front of the Museum of the American Indian, and there will be a introduction and prayer from an Indigenous playwright
- We are also having a poster night this Thursday starting at 6
 - It will be at 11 Broadway, but we do need RSVPs at rarimmigration@gmail.com
 - An idea for a poster example is "Birther of a Nation"

Donna

- After we participate in the demo last week, Democracy Now had an article about this with a very big picture of us holding our banner made by Mel
- And it included our name as Rise and Resist

Benz

- There was also an action for the Bikes Against Deportation for the immigrant issue about motorized bikes

- There will also be follow ups about that on April 19th

New Member announcement/reminder (Dianne is the greeter)

Alexis

- There will be a marshal training specifically for the 3/24 march
- Thursday from 7-9pm
- It will not be a full RAR training as normal, since the march is permitted and being done with police, but is meant to be an intro for those who would want it before participating in this very important march
- If anyone is interested to marshal for Saturday please reach out to Alexis directly for details

Dann

- I'm going with GAG to DC
- If anyone is interested to go on another bus there are still seats available

Jake

- There is a bus and 2 vans that are going
- To leave Saturday you need to meet them at 5am at The Center
- There will be an action on Friday at the NRA HQ
- Orange is the gun violence prevention color, please wear orange if possible

Questions

Benz

- Is RAR doing a specific march contingent?

Jamie

- Most of the normal planners for RAR are doing GAG/DC things, so I don't know of a specific plan
- But the pens will be opening at 10am and the march will start at 12pm to go down the same route as the Women's March

Mark H

- There is also a GAG group that will still be marching here in NYC and we are welcome to join them

Jake

- We actually also need people who might be interested to portray a Human Being

Martin

- We have been invited to a student-led action to protest Trump's plan to arm teachers
- Friday March 23rd at 5pm at Foley Square

Finance

Martin

- Net value is \$2900, down \$200 from last week
- The online store has netted \$321, please share with friends and family

- Tonight's collection was \$505

MLK March

Christopher

- Cofounder of Peace Accelerators, a peace protester group in NYC
- April 4th action to commemorate Dr Martin Luther King Jr, working with Hawk Newsome, to highlight the last public speech that Dr King gave in NYC about the Vietnam war (50 years ago)
- Will be from the Adam Clay Powelton statue, from in front of the Apollo at 5pm. Near 125th St and Lexington
- It's also Maya Angelou's birthday
- There will be speeches, poems, and a silent march to Riverside Church
- There will also be a dinner afterwards that everyone is encouraged to attend
- Also planning a 10K person celebration to celebrate World Peace Day on Sept 21st

Youth Caucus

Alex B/Emily

- Yesterday we had our first session of the interview project with new and experienced activists encouraging others to get involved
- Email raryouth@gmail.com with coalition members that might want to participate

Ed

NYC for Abortion Rights

- This Sunday there is a group called "Gift for Life" that will hold a rally in Foley Square
- There is a plan to counterprotest their rally
- Meeting at Birch Coffee at 8:40 am to go to the rally incognito
- Also, as an FYI, Ohio is trying to pass a bill to block all abortions that could later be used to overturn Roe V. Wade if it is passed and brought to the courts

Questions

Stu

- What is the aim of this?
- My experience of seeing counter protesters at rallies it just seems like people end up screaming at each other and it can be a dangerous situation

Ed

- We want to make our voice be heard, and let people see that this doesn't go unopposed

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The rally is at 11am, which is then expected to become a march, so our portion should end by 11. Probably 9-11.

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How will you differentiate yourself from their group?

Ed

We have a bunch of chants that are pro-women and pro-choice to use

Jamie

To agree with Stu, things are likely to escalate, so what are your commitments to deescalate if something happens?

Ed

We don't intend to go into the middle of their group, and since it is permitted the police are expected to be present,

Jenny

The police are providing security?

Ed

No, they have a permitted rally, so the police will be there, but we are planning to stay to the side and chant peacefully. Our security is only our marshals

Vote Called for Endorsement - Passed, but with notable objections and abstentions

Comms

Andy

- We don't know if there will be any comms ppl at the IDC phonebank, postcard party, etc, so please send us photos and videos if possible
- We don't necessarily see all of our media coverage either, so if you find something please reach out to us at media@riseandresist.org

Dann

- The video group is up and running, please reach out for projects, like our collab with the Youth Caucus on their video series

Book Group

Andy

- Sunday will be the meeting
- About 10 hands for expected attendees
- We want to discuss the book and the importance of the subject matter, especially how to keep Black Lives Matter a vibrant and meaningful movement with our full support
- 3-5pm, with coffee and donuts

Easter Parade

Tom/Diane

- Diane's first demo that she is planning
- Fussy Lo Mein will be appearing as Mother Nature and the action from the Oculus will be being repurposed
- The theme is "The RIGHTS of Spring"
 - "The Right to clean drinking water", "The Right to renewable energy", etc
- April 1st is Easter and the parade date, it's on 5th avenue
- Last year it stopped at 55th because of the Tower

- Veterans of the parade have said that our best chance for press is to be in a big group in one spot
- Please dress as an animal
- There will also be props available for anyone who does not have a costume themselves

Questions

Harris

- Will there be bunny tails?

Pride March

Jake

- Update for those who weren't here last week: There will be no Resistance contingent this year
 - Heritage of Pride (HOP) is receiving our complaints, especially based on police presence
 - Our goal was to have the officers who march should do so out of uniform, and to cut down the police presence and the amount of weapons
 - HOP and NYPD are not particularly interested to do this
 - Our coalition is not certain how we plan to approach this so we are planning a meeting
- The possible meeting will be Wednesday night 7-9, 28th, or Saturday March 31st.
 - Straw poll: Saturday is the winning option (around 2pm)

Questions

Kellen

- Also last year Department of Corrections had a rainbow bus, which shouldn't be allowed in Pride

Brody

- Why do ppl want police not to march in uniform?
- A: Because

Education

Jake

- Immigration and Annette have been good about getting speakers, but we only have a few more lined up
- Media training suggestions?

Anti-IDC

Eve

- There is a phone bank Wednesday from 6-8:30pm against the IDC

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Mark M

- We all may have varied feelings on Cynthia Nixon running for Gov but maybe we can plug-in to use her raising the issue of the IDC?
- A - Eve: there is not a consistent position from the Elections group

Andy

- Is this one of the ones with HubDial to allow people to participate from home?
- A - Eve: Yes I think so, so we will reach out to anyone who mentions Elections looking for info

Non-RAR Actions

Mary

- Postcard party with a Facebook event and on the RAR website calendar

Martin

- Are hosting a tea dance and Stormy Daniels viewing party at Nowhere Bar
- The profits would go to an organization that supports sex workers
- 6-10pm at Nowhere Bar

Vote for Endorsement Passed