

RAR Minutes

Facilitators: Jamie and Jeremiah

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
- Alexis is our greeter for the evening (New members in attendance)

Report Backs

Immigration

Jody/Enrico

- "These were the racist and xenophobic statements of Donald Trump that warrant impeachment"
- Imprisoning ppl w/o adequate food or medical care
- Closing the US border to those fleeing civil war in Syria
- Ending the TPS for the 300K immigrants from Honduras, El Salvador, and Haiti
- Pardoning the AZ Sheriff Joe Arpaio for charges of racial discrimination
- Ending DACA exposing hundreds of thousands of young people to deportation
- Referring to a POC Ms. Universe as Miss Housekeeping

- Discouraging family unification processes as “chain migration”
- Saying that some of the white supremacists marching in Charlottesville were “very fine people”
- Separating children from parents in detention
- Saying that 15K recent immigrants from Haiti “all have AIDS”
- For the over 2K people who have been deported since the beginning of the Trump administration

Jody

- Small but dedicated group
- At the National Museum of the American Indian
- Had a lot of tourists going by and local foot traffic that stopped to join in and spectate
- Also associated to a Federal Building in Bowling Green
- Donna
- Can we talk more about the participation of Native Americans?
- Jody A
- We were able to get an address by Jonathan Yellowrobe, a playwright friend of Alvin's, to offer a Native American prayer and welcome to the immigrants at their “fire”
- We also have several Native artists in attendance to read the prayer and statements

Enrico

- Trump has recently been complaining about the new immigrants coming and “trying to take advantage of DACA” - which one needed to have been in the US since '07 to be eligible for
- He has also said No DACA deal, so we are unsure if he is just trying to raise the stakes in the Wall negotiations or means it genuinely
- We meet Thursdays at 7, please come out to work with us as our immigrant communities are under attack!

Impeach

Eve

- Russian Themed, Impeach N'yet
- Putin, Trump on a leash, and Russian “Bots”
- Thank you to Phil for the work on the costumes!!
- Columbus Circle/Trump Hotel

Court Update

Alexis

- We were in court yesterday for Trump Tower Action II
- We had about 15 ppl show up to be arraigned (out of the 17 that were arrested by 5 different police officers)
- All of the charges were different b/w each in the group and none had all the same
- Met as a collective to argue for an ACD (slap on the wrist if you don't get re-arrested in 6 months) with the Assistant District Attorney

- Will be going back May 30th to be re-arraigned and keep arguing for dismissal/lowest charges

Zach

- Has anyone been offered an ACD at this point?
- A - Yes, some were given it off the bat, others had a variety of more serious charges, even though we all did the same thing minus being limp when arrested for some. We all did the same thing, so we shouldn't have to accept different charges

Andy

- Are any of the upcoming court dates times when you would want court support?
- A - Not unless you really really want to

Jackie

- With the ACD if you were to be arrested again how does it set you back?
- A - Because if you were to be arrested again, the old charges could be reopened and brought to trial with current charges
- Jamie - Also the ACD gets rid of all the court paperwork and closing their caseload, so they prefer it for processing us too

Alexandra

- We had at least 3 attorneys with us today, (Ray, 2 other gentlemen, all pro bono)
- A- Also Alexis is a JD herself

Tabling

Stu

- Did the first instance of tabling this past Saturday
- Picked a spot on the south side of Union Sq, so got a lot of traffic, but lots of people just fly by
- Have some follow up going with people via email
- Tim, Ivy, and Mel were there to help, and had some good ideas
 - Like doing an immigration "Teach In" on the steps there
- Also going to flyer outside an Eric Schneiderman speech since we know that that's already our crowd

Jake

- Have you thought of trying an interactive element?
- Maybe a photobooth? Russian bots?

Mike

- Some of the film festivals, of documentaries, etc, might be good places to flyer

New Actions

Dann/Kathryn

- We have been shooting some videos with the Youth Caucus to follow experienced and newer activists

- With studio lighting, equipment, etc
- Will be cutting the interviews up for social media content
- We've already had a great few interviews
- We have another session next Tuesday 6-9

Jeremiah

- Especially since it is Tuesday we are trying to make sure to get as much coalition involvement as possible

NRA Demo

Wrolf

- Friends of the NRA of BK is still trying to hold their fundraiser on Thursday April 12th at 6pm
- Location is still unknown
- We are planning an event for Borough Hall BK to demonstrate
 - Will take the place of the Impeach demo for that week

Andy

- If they do put out a last minute location, all of our comm tools will be ready to fire off when needed
- Please be ready for a last minute info even day of^

Easter Parade

Dianne

- Fussy Lo Mein was Mother Earth
- Had about 40 ppl in animal costumes
- Went to Trump Tower first to read the Articles of Impeachment
- Did encounter counter protesters (~5-10)
- Then went to Rockefeller Center
- Had a lot of attention, but could have potentially gotten more media attention if we went past the church during mass

Donna

- Because there were so many people as a group walking down 5th ave, we were basically our own mini parade with a lot of crowd participation
- It went on for about an hour and 40 mins

Stu

- It was also really hard because we didn't have a lot of marshals but Jamie kept everything going great
- J - about 7 more ppl jumped up to block out the counter protesters

John W

- Props to Dianne for planning her first action and doing so well

Zach

- Would you tell us more about the counter protesters that proved difficult?

Jamie

- There were 5, most were like our normal attendees
- There was a woman wrapped in a Trump flag who was using religious language/condemnation
- There was also a woman who was saying that this is Trump's building and Trump's block so we had no right to be there
- Since we weren't really protesting the police chose not to really get involved, other than to tell them to "act like adults", but some aux police did nudge them
- We went to a new location assuming they'd stay at the Tower, but they did follow us

Phil

- I acted as a buffer for the counter protesters and our training worked
- I loved our costumes and how it interacted with all the children present
- (Cred to Phillip for his awesome drag)

Jackie

- Also seeing Jamie marshal with a bunny tail/ears
- J - Leon, James B, and others really helped with the marshaling against the counter protesters

Dianne

- It was funny that the police said to them to act like adults when we were dressed as animals

Tim

- Also wanted to say that I'm proud our marshals were able to handle the woman breaking into our group

IDC/Elections

Livvie

- Working on 8 simultaneous demos against the IDC for April 29th 2-3 pm
 - 1 on SI, 2 in BK, 2 in Qns, 1 in the Bx, 1 in Rockland County, and 1 in Syracuse
- Many of the rallies already have locations and people working on the ground already
- T-shirts (as modeled by Claire) - No Trump Democrats (IDC Crossed Out)
- We also have a live updating map we are working on for coalition building

Jamie

- At some of the rallies we did last year, there were counter protesters set up by the candidates to support them, have you talked about if they show up?
- L - We hadn't thought of it, but we will plan to ignore them if needed

Jody

- For Make the Road and NY Immigrant coalition I can try to get you into contact

Mark M

- Have we decided to endorse and support candidates officially?

- L - Yes, specific to the candidates running against the IDC

Richard

- Are you planning a demo against Simcha Felder? He may not be IDC but he's part of the problem too.
- L - We're still deciding how to deal with him

rar.elections@gmail.com

Announcements

Pride Updates

Jake

- There will be a meeting on Saturday from 1-2:30pm to make strategy
- It will be a coalition based meeting, and was planned by DSA's Queer Caucus

Tim

- At Act Up we are trying to get the police out of Pride
- But there's a movement to boycott or create our own pride, are we talking about this?

Jamie

We do have a place in Pride, as a bookmark,

Enrico

DSA, but what other groups might be present?

GAG, Act Up,

Livvie

I'm thinking that we are talking about diversifying into the boroughs, but what if we do Queens or Brooklyn Pride?

J- I would think we can do those, too, without counting ourselves out of the Manhattan plans

Postcards

Rachel

We sent cards to people in CA against Doug Femalda

We sent cards to FL to support Dem voter turnout

Wed, April 18th, 7-9 for another session of card marking

Specific races TBD

Finance

Rob

Net worth of \$800

\$336 of Rent, out of the \$350

We did sell \$6K worth of shirts at Manhattan Pride, and would like to try to sell at other prides too if possible

Andy

We do also have the ability to process credit card and electronic transactions at the end of the meetings

Livvie

- I got a donation from my mom and my son, which was preaching to the choir, but I will plan to reach out to my nephew who has a Trump sticker
- A - It's heartening to hear that we have multiple generations of support in your family
- Also Robert D was able to get a \$500 donation from a family member too

Andy

- If you need help pitching/asking, please reach out to us

Healthcare/Tax Day

Mark H/Ann/Alexandra

- Tax Day ppl's action festival Tuesday April 17th
- Trump Tax Scam Photobooth
- And a Soap Box for passersby to speak if they would like to tell their story
- There is a need for volunteers for some street theatre if interested reach out to Mark H
- Healthcare impeach is for 26th of April
 - Working with a nurses' union and a doctors' union
 - In front of Harlem Hospital
- Poor People's' Campaign will be hosting a CD training and day of activity this Saturday
 - 11:30am to 6
 - Union Theological Seminary at Columbia
 - We're on the planning committee (Ann)
- Will be waiting a few weeks to have someone from Poor People's' Campaign to come speak

Strategy Meeting

Saturday 2:30-4:30pm at 420 W. 45th St (b/w 9th and 10th Ave)

In the basement, in room C

Book Club

"How Democracies Die" reading the book by 2 Harvard Professors

Book Club was planned for April 29th, but moving our time to accommodate IDC rallies, will likely be on April 28th

Even if you haven't been able to read the book we welcome you to participate

There is also a podcast on the Ezra Klein show and a press tour of interviews to watch too

Next "The End of Policing" Alexander ____

He will be meeting with us to discuss the topic

How he believes that many of the suggested resolutions for the problem of changing policing are not viable, and what that will have to actually look like instead

Last Sunday of May will be Memorial Day Weekend, so book club may have to move for May as well

Patrice, the author of When They Call You A Terrorist, will be talking with Michelle Alexander (The New Jim Crow author) at the Union Theological Seminary 3041 Broadway

Thursday April 19th at 7(?)

- May be low/running out of tickets for the live event
- We could plan to maybe get a space to livestream it together
- ^A fair amount of interest to do so, so Andy will look for someone to take the lead on maybe finding a space

Comms

Andy

Launching our online support team

An idea taken from working with a Senate campaign of having a form for supporters all over the country, etc, to share and commit to support our social media presence

We have had responses from other areas of the country, so this is a good way to channel that energy

Secret Fb groups or Twitter chats, etc

Will house the form on the website to be shareable

Meeting Tuesdays before the meeting at The Center

March to Commemorate MLK Jr

Media will be sending some ppl to livestream

Meeting at 5pm at the Adam Clay Powell building

March at 6pm, then to the Riverside Church
Rally outside Church

Action Planning Brainstorm

Harris

- Sinclair Broadcasting issues
- Each station has different advertisers, so it's hard to target

Stu

- The EPA is lowering automobile standards
 - But the car association has been pushing for this too, not just Pruitt
 - General Motors, especially, and it was bailed out by public funds
- Census now will be asking for citizenship status
 - Which will hurt immigrant states
 -

Elka

- Virginia and others went to support Hawk Newsome when he was arrested last week
- Want to plan an action to commemorate the loss of the widow of the man in Schenectady on May 11th

Dianne

- War What is it Good For?
- Keeping our eye on potential for international conflict

Andy

- Parkland gun control advocates for April 7th town halls
- Pruitt is in trouble for his corruption, because of the bad press he's been getting
 - So we can try to get stories about how corrupt Pruitt is

Jake

- Drag Him Out of the White House
- Trade War with China as an issue
 - An action to explain the imports that are about to get expensive

Jamie

- I am very upset about DACA, especially based on the Easter speeches
- I think it's time to go back to Schumer and pressure him since he's gone silent on it
- He does come back to NY on weekends

Donna

- In relation to War, this is a demo Against Endless War on April 15th
 - Will post it in the FB group
- A campaign to attack ICE and Homeland Security
 - To be very aggressive and abolish ICE

Jeremiah

- I want to echo Jamie since we can really pressure Schumer as NYers

John

- Money - chasing the money
 - Military, Monsanto, etc, Wells Fargo and the other funders

Jody

- Local targets for immigration
- Including DeBlasio, because he's doing the crackdown on electronic bikes

Enrico

- Against private immigration detention centers

Mike

- Education, the teachers' strikes, Cuomo as an education enemy/inequality
- Including class in the mission statement
- Focusing on specific foreign individuals/policies rather than nationalistic things, anti-Putin rather than just anti-Russia and being in solidarity with the poor/working class international

Ann

- Mother's Day will start the Poor People's Campaign
- Want to build coalition
- Currently planning vague actions

Robert

- War/money
- Congressional corporate complex
- GAG did a protest at Blackrock who are the largest investor in nuclear
- Don't Bank on the Bomb - Divest from the financial institutions that invest in nuclear

Mark H

- Mercers live in NY so let's target them
- The daughter lives in the UWS, in a complex that was called Trump City

Alex L

- The issues of indigenous people: divesting from oil pipelines, American Indians' Healthcare system,
- The VA issue of socialized medicine vs privatization

Andy

- Ryan Zinke, Secretary of the Interior, has been reassigning internal staff in disconcerting patterns, especially for Native members and trying to sell off public lands

Jamie/Jeremiah

- Just a reminder not to get overwhelmed by the volume of issues, but to notice how much of it is linked, and to think about how much we can get done even with just 10 ppl at the right place at the right time with the right message

Non-RAR Actions

Vocal

Jason

- This Thurs, April 5th, City Hall at 12pm
- Safe Injection Facilities for IV use
- Present research and harm reduction models to ask DeBlasio and city to open such facilities
- Rally
- Mayor is on record for delaying “feasibility report” base on the complexity of the issue, but the mayor and first lady have not mentioned the evidence even once that these facilities demonstrably save lives
- Vote for endorsement
- May be more ways to get involved

Rainbow Flag Run

- Feb 3rd
- Sydney leg on March 3rd
- NY will be June 16th
- Paris will be the final destination at Gay Games 10

Donna

- I would like to propose that we endorse the Anti-War March for April 15th
- From Herald Square to Trump Tower
- 2pm-5pm
- I will organize a contingent if ppl are interested

Andy

- Some of the cosponsors are the radical radical left, like Answer, (with questionable policies around Syria)
- Maybe evaluate the others involved

Mark M

- We have participated in other marches where we disagreed with some of the specifics, so I think we can

Donna

- I will research and bring it back after