

## **RAR Minutes**

2018-2-13

Facilitators: Jay, Jennifer

Timekeeper: none

Notes: Alex

### 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
  - Reviewed norms, asked if any law enforcement or journalists were present (none identified themselves), read mission statement.
  - is our floating facilitator for the night.
- Welcome new members
  - Greeter: Jon Carter

### **Tom Cat Bakery:** report back and upcoming actions

- Andy
  - Protested at Francis
  - We had live streaming and professional video
  - Jeanne and others had a moment of action at the bar, giving a speech about why Tom Cat bakery is being protested
  - Then the group spread out around the restaurant, even talking to members of the staff and going into the kitchen
    - Asked patrons to ask not to be served Tom Cat bread
  - There was a moving picket with great chants and signs outside the restaurant
  - The video is on our FB and Twitter
  - There was an orchestra there
  - Also in coalition with the Democratic Socialist of America
  - There was a good response from the restaurant
  - Please reach out to Jeanne, we want to continue this campaign and need others to get involved!

- Elka
  - Was there still better bread that was brought as a replacement?
    - A - No I don't believe so
- Cheryl
  - Yes Jeanne made some rolls at home and we did put them on tables
- -
  - When is the next one?
    - Jeanne is at a restaurant right now, actually. There are many many targets, so please reach out to Jeanne to find out more
- 

#### New Coalition meeting -

- John
  - Went to meeting last Thursday for a data organizing group,
  - It's a once a month meeting to network
  - Please reach out to John to go if interested
  - Expected to be covert, but everyone there knew who RaR was and wanted to get involved with us
    - Something for us to be proud of, for sure
  - There were some attorneys who wanted to help us with press releases, etc,
  - Email [media@riseandresist.org](mailto:media@riseandresist.org)
- Enrico
  - Report back from Saturday
    - You can't deport a movement" - had great RaR presence, there were speakers and a lot of participants
      - Was inspired by Ravi's being detained by ICE
    - Ravi has sued and the court accepted his case, so there is a stay till March 15th when the next court date happens
    - The suit accuses ICE of targeting immigration activists
- Donna
  - ICE is getting more and more aggressive
  - Showing up in communities, coming into courts, taking people up without warrants and moving for deportation, denying people the access to their families to say goodbye, etc
  - Ravi was a target as an activist, but there are reports it has happened in VT, MS, and elsewhere
  - They are targeting large groups as well, like an Indonesian Church/community
  - Ravi's case has had a very sympathetic response and I think that we should continue to use this momentum, as demonstrated on Saturday
  - The judge who prevented Ravi's deportation was based on the unjust way he was separated from his family
  - The issue in the courts, I think, is whether or not the Constitution applies to undocumented immigrants

- Legal Aid have been walking out of courts in protest to the treatment and actions by ICE in detaining clients that are following lawful conduct
- I hope RaR continues to show up en masse for actions in coalition with others and please remember the chant “ICE out of NY”
- Mel
  - I will be at the back of the room, please see me to get involved
  - The deputy director of ICE is the guy that is upping their actions, Thomas Homen,
- Jody
  - There is a group of Dreamers walking from NY to DC to present their demands to Congress
  - They are leaving this Thursday from Battery Park at the WWII monument
    - Straw poll of who can come

#### Questions

- Jeremiah
  - I’m curious of any of the groups in this space are putting more pressure on Schumer to be a champion of immigration issues?
  - Jody
    - As far as Schumer goes, the call is still out
    - The Dreamers are the easy get and we can’t even get that

#### **Immigration Committee:** report back and ongoing work

#### **Everything for Andrew Kearsse:**

- Report back - Elka
- Last Thursday 5 of us went to Schenectady to support the widow of Andrew Kearsse
- We were picked up by a school bus to go up there
- We were 5 out of a group of 21, but when we got there there were another 60 people
- We then marched together from a church to the police precinct
- As a marshal, I helped to coordinate us going into the lobby of the building but none of the police came out to meet with us
- It was great to be heard throughout the town and to work in coalition with many different groups and such a great diversity, with BLM, etc,
- Eve
  - There is plans for another action, potentially
  - There is a request that the tape from the police cruiser of his death be released as public record
  - BLM of NY are asking to come talk to us again about further actions
  - BLM is calling for a law in Andrew’s name to require police ...

#### **Youth Caucus!**

- Jeremiah

- Can the Youth Caucus stand for everyone to see?
  - Ten of us stand
- We met on Sunday to discuss more of our future actions
- Like revitalizing the Inclusivity Training and planning a future Impeachment Protest
- We are at [rar.youth@gmail.com](mailto:rar.youth@gmail.com), please reach out if you are interested to work with us

## **Collect Rent**

### **Postcard Party -& Valentines action**

- Rachel/Mari
  - Saturday we hosted a postcard party
  - We wrote 75 cards at an apartment to encourage Dem voters to turnout for a special election
  - We would like to have another one on Wed, Feb 28th

#### **Questions**

- Jake
  - When you are writing these postcards, we should focus on saying support around issues and not on candidates

### **Vote for this to become an ongoing action campaign**

- **Approved**

For Valentines Day, there are 8 cards that are to be sent to our coalition partners from us, to thank them for their work and community (Voices4Checnia, Planned Parenthood, GAG, etc)

Sign them at the back of the room!

### **Facilitation -Report back on remote viewing-- Andy (Alex L)**

People are regularly using it, after the first two weeks when no one participated  
 Also, people in the room can use it if they trouble with hearing  
 Around six people have applied, and a couple people are viewing it right now  
 Everyone likes it that has used it, lots of positive feedback

## **Shout out to late-arriving newcomers**

### **The Resistance Wants You**

- Stu
  - We had our first meeting, with 64 interested on FB and 30 saying they were coming, but only 2 showed up
  - But it still felt that it was a very productive meeting

- We want to encourage people to feel more comfortable to be involved in direct action groups like Rise and Resist, but also to link to other important causes too if that's more their speed
- At the end of this meeting Stew will be in the back to get more interest
- Once this is more functional they would like to link up with the Welcoming Committee to explain the nuts and bolts of how the meetings work for those who might be interested

Straw poll for interest to recruit

#### Questions

- Alexis
  - Can you also tell people about our hosted trainings?
    - Yes, we will for sure!

#### **Impeach:** report back and upcoming action - Nadler Town Hall

- Jamie
  - Last night, Monday the 12th Nadler had a town hall at NYU
  - There were 6 attendees from RaR
  - We got to question him about issues like impeachment
  - Especially with him as a part of the Judiciary Committee
  - What he said about the possibility of impeachment was not encouraging, his reasoning is that he will only move on it if it comes as a bipartisan movement
  - However, we can keep pressure up on him to improve on that stance
  - We will also keep an eye out for other public meetings he may have
- Martin
  - This week Impeachment will be about Trump's treatment of Women
  - Last weeks had about 30 people marching at Trump Tower
    - It had about 100K views on Twitter
    - Every time we do a successful livestream we garner a few hundred additional followers
  - We are also planning future protests to focus on ableism, the Russian connection, etec
  - Email Martin at [checkoutthatlady@gmail.com](mailto:checkoutthatlady@gmail.com) for interest

#### **ERT:**

- Report on one vote
- John, Wroff, Claire
- A vote on Saturday for the Andrew Kearshe action based on a request to respond to a press release

- But based on the nature of the ERT and the ability of the action to be brought to the floor in previous weeks, the vote did not pass to include RaR in the action's press

### Finance:

- Robert
  - Rent collection for tonight was \$358

### Public domain vs Copyright.

- Andy
  - Fundraising and Finance have been discussing how we handle the creative works that have been going into our work within RAR and there seemed to be differences of opinions within the group over ownership
  - We talked to several outside experts, both legal and in other orgs (like Act Up), to make sure that we are establishing best practice
  - We have some of the best protests in the US as related to opposing the current administration, and are frequently featured in major publications
  - So, in the spirit of making our great resources available to everyone, we are thinking about making our graphic work, etc, accessible to others and open to greater collaboration
  - We want to make sure to keep good relations with our artists and establishing understood guidelines for our work together
  - So to ask that those who choose to work with us will make their materials of full use to us at anytime, future use, etc
  - Strategy
    - Collaborative creative work would be considered to open use
    - Open to both commercial and noncommercial usage
    - Allowing others to be able to fundraise using these designs
    - Open to exceptions and the need to communicate that explicitly, if applicable
  - The way that we feel we can best achieve this goal is to make our work part of Creative Commons License and in the "public domain"
    - For example, Shakespeare is now in the public domain
  - For artwork in Act Up or Raging Grannies, this is their approach

### Questions

- Alex
  - Couldn't we ask artists instead to surrender copyright to us and this would solve all the same issues?
  - And then we would have discretion to share with others?
- Mari
  - I agree with this mostly, but there are images that include my person, that I would not want others to be able to use or distribute

- And what about if people misuse the images we produce?
    - Andy
      - People generally bringing whiteboards to protests to reserve copyright... ?
- Jake
  - This would allow others, including hate groups, to appropriate our work
  - Jay - corollary comment: Act Up was like that because their only adversary was AIDS and they need greater visibility, we have many causes and many opponents, with the age of media access, we do not need the same approach
- Mike
  - Fair use allows exceptions for others to be able to use copyrighted work anyway
  - It troubles me that you are suggesting an option that would allow corporations and commercial use that could profit from our work
- Wrolf
  - I think that the artwork that is produced for us being under Creative Commons License
    - Andy
      - For both ideological and practical reasons, we don't have the resources to run a copyright bureau and manage permissions
- Harris
  - I think this is great, especially since a lot of the work comes from working group
  - But would agree with Alex, that people could also just ask us if we hold the license
- Jim
  - In our culture, a lot of media is stolen despite our best efforts, and commercial or noncommercial use is not an issue in my mind, because we want to make sure that we are not discouraging artists from working with us or from getting our work out there
- Tim
  - As an EpiPen user, I have spoken at groups holding up my EpiPen and that was then sold without my permission to artwork that then profited others
- Sam
  - Speaking as an artist that has made things for RAR, there is a lot that people will do for the causes that will also benefit them financially
  - I think that our work should definitely be distributed outside NYC
- Rachel
  - I would like to hear from more other artists

Andy suggests Tom

- Tom
  - I have done work for the group and many other nonprofits, and want others to be able to access the work

Alexis calls for Lorenzo to be called on

- Lorenzo
  - I have done photoshopping and props for the group, so I feel fine with this suggestion

Jennifer

- Since there are clearly strong opinions this should be part of more conversation, but for the time being let's take a straw poll since we are low on time

Straw poll mostly in favor

Jay

- So maybe we should just move for a vote?

**Vote passes for public domain licensing**

**Comms**

Dann

- For the website, there are several new tabs with information pertaining to the different parts of the group

John

- We have also been working on the calendar that includes all the activities of the group
- For everything down to the subcommittee level, as much as we are updated

Holly

- If anyone here has any PR contacts with access to Cision, or any database for searching press outlets, we need to freshen our contacts
- Please email us at [media@riseandresist.org](mailto:media@riseandresist.org)
- If you have social media platforms, please follow as many RAR accounts as possible and retweet our materials

Wroff

- I have handcards with RAR information available for anyone who needs them for future actions

Andy

- We had a conversation in the Facilitation about the minutes being posted publicly and people's concerns about redactions since they are being included on the website

Questions

Elka

- Do we have problems with trolls on our social media?

Martin



- We occasionally do, but we generally deal with them

### **Fundraising:**

- Presentation on New Web Merch
- Dann/Tom
  - We have new hats, shirts, etc, available in our online store
  - We would like to transfer it to a RAR credit card
  - It is definitely a work in progress and we will likely add more designs
  -

### **Questions**

- Paul
  - Are you accepting suggestions of other types of merch?
  - Tom - Yes please
  - Eve -
    - Sales tax question
  - -
    - As a college student people really like having stickers to add to their laptops
    - And where do all the funds go?
      - Dann - to RAR, minus a monthly fee for Shopify that is around \$30

John - Is finance still tracking the account or is this a separate group?

- Robert is managing this

Donna - Are we advancing money to pay to these? Can you explain the finances of this?

- Unlike the other shirts, this is not requiring an advance, items are only produced per order at 0 itemized cost to us

### **Vote to use RAR card for this purpose**

**Approved**

### **Activist Disco at Nowhere Bar 2/25**

Facebook Event

In Coalition with New Sanctuary

Fundraising opportunity to sell merch

### **RAR Book Club 2/25**

Reading Direct Action by L.A. Kauffman (a member! Applause for her)

## New Actions

- Besty
  - Every year a coalition sends a letter to a majority of the state senate to ask them to pass GENDA
  - I would like to have us support this campaign  
**Vote to endorse**  
Approved near unanimously
- Alexis
  - Civil Disobedience Training with DSA
    - March 17th
    - Location TBD
    - Somewhere on NYU campus
  - There will be another announcement about Marshal Training
  - Please make sure to ask about helping to plan more trainings with our coalition members
- Jeremiah
  - At our next meeting we will be having a 30 min presentation about being our best trans\* allies
  - We do also need more help for people who can take minutes!!
- -
  - For Trump's plan for the military parade, as of this week Veterans for Peace put out a press release opposing the suggestion of a march
  - VfP are also planning a possible rally, march, for July 3rd as a reaction
  - There is a closed facebook group for "Veterans Peace March" for those who would like to help plan this action
  - The march is intended to include Indigenous Veterans as honored members upfront
  - There has been some backlash from pro-Trump groups trying to disrupt this movement, just FYI

## Non-RAR Actions

- Emmanuel
  - I have spent the past few years studying the Alt-Right
  - I am offering resources for a video series to avoid involvement with these types of groups and how to address this problem and how it is involved with predominantly white orgs

- I have been able to use these resources to productively talk with Trump supporters
- Jake
  - Tomorrow, Gays Against Guns, will be going to DC to protest Concealed Carry Reciprocity
  - They will be leaving at 7:30 am from in front of the LGBT Center
  - Please join us

Michael

- I am doing an action on following No Justice No Pride
- As a trans\* person we are encouraging people to participate in HoP and to push against the involvement of police in Pride
- And to emphasis on creating safe space
- HoP has been explicitly that they do not want to work with No Justice No Pride on their requests
  - Requests like asking military and police to march in civilian dress
  - And the issues with Chelsea Pier being overpoliced during the celebrations
  -
- Asking people to make an affinity group to interact with HoP
- [H4jnyc@gmail.com](mailto:H4jnyc@gmail.com)
- Jake
  - This is part of the coalition of groups that will be in the Resistance contingent in Pride
- The Phantom
  - There will be a Haitian America demonstration this Saturday against Trump