

RAR Minutes

2018-1-30

Facilitators: Jeanne Baron and Elka

Timekeeper: none

Notes: Susan Hodges

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.

Introduction – 7:10pm

- Welcome new members and introduce Harris, the greeter
- Any police/law enforcement/Homeland Security? (no answer)
- Any journalists covering this meeting? (no answer)
- Put down your phone. Do not take pictures.
- Step Up/Step Back-Make space for people whose voices are usually not heard.
- Please use your preferred pronouns when you introduce yourself.
- Seats in the front two rows - please leave open for people with disabilities.
- Read mission statement
- We have now a dedicated person for report backs and if you are going to propose a new action- go and speak to Jake.

Reports – 7:15

- “State of Disgrace” update
 - Just had this action. Ken Kidd - action at Trump Tower this afternoon. 14 of us were arrested They should be released from jail by 9pm. We shut down Trump Tower for an hour. It was a beautiful thing. Started up top and unfurled a huge banner– Security didn’t know where we were coming from next. Pix on RAR page. They will make you proud. Share those photos on social media. Get the word out. Signs: Shut Down Trump, State of Emergency, State of Disgrace.
 - The release of the arrested folks began to be processed just before 8pm.

- Finance
 - Ivy - has a handout showing the accountant expenses that were approved last week, to prepare our taxes. Handout also reports our cash and bank balance in a more transparent way.
 - Has a lot of new items for approval. Several actions went over the pre-approved \$200 amounts and need additional funds approved.
 - Impeach \$109; Women's March \$159; Impeach hats \$141; Rent signature. Floor voted to approve all of these.
 - Andy - joint fundraising finance operation at the moment: Impeach hats. \$15. Cash strongly preferred. Will also have them at the Impeach action on Thursday. Shows us the \$15 Impeach hats
 - Collected \$271.00 tonight.

- Youth Caucus – Bowling at Melody Lanes in Brooklyn was a big success. Will be bowling again, every other Saturday. rar.youth@gmail.com

- Elevator Action Group
 - First action: Addressed incoming MTA president [?]
 - Second action - Community Board 1 had a meeting re: new elevators, because they didn't want an ugly structure blocking their new building. People spoke and unanimously voted that elevators would be installed. Secondary meeting after that - and no one spoke against the elevators.
 - Plan to renovate 33 stations. Nine stations are being worked on. But Tuesday there was a vote to shelve some of them.
 - Elevator-action-group-at-rise-and-resist@googlegroups.com

- Facilitation training
 - Alex - about 20-25 people attended, new and old together. They had a great conversation about things we're working on.

- Jay - We had an End-of-year meeting to discuss how things are going in our meetings and actions, things that need improvement, things that have been successful. About 40 were at the meeting, a lot of notes taken. Saturday February 3, from 2-4 we will have part 2 of the discussion, at LGBT Center, 208 W 13th Street
 - Jeanne - Are there notes to read to catch up if you weren't at the first meeting? Donna has the notes compiled. Request a copy by emailing info@riseandresist.org.

- "Read and Resist" Book Club
 - Andy - first mtg is Sunday, Feb 25 at LGBT Center, 2-4pm. They will be reading Direct Action, by L.A. Kauffman. Kauffman is an RAR member and will be present at the discussion. FB event page: <https://www.facebook.com/events/1007657959375690/>

- Set up Resistance recruitment booth around town: “The Resistance Wants You”. First meeting will be to discuss messaging etc. Feb 11, 11-1, LGBT Center, 208 West 13th Street. Will start the actual work around town during the warmer months. Contact: Waldman@mikaya.com <https://www.facebook.com/events/399121203861202/>
- TomCat Bakery
 - Jeanne - radiobaron@gmail.com organizing efforts in solidarity with workers at Tom Cat Bakery. We’ve been working on it for months. Asking restaurants not to assist Trump administration in rounding up immigrant workers. Still, many restaurants have refused to drop their accounts. Now we are escalating that effort. We are going to do something like the cough-in, the first action RAR did . Disrupted business as usual inside the restaurant. Talk to Jeanne to get the name of the restaurant. Demonstration will be on Thursday Feb 8, 7pm.
 - The restaurants hate when we do this. Also, we are doing this in coalition with IWW, DSA (Democratic Socialists for America). They are calling it a Tip and Sit. We will chant, move out if they ask us to. The Impeach Trump group will join us on the outside.
 - Jay from floor - Who is their largest competitor? Are we driving business to the competitor? Would they be willing to donate to RAR? [Laughs] There are two of them. Jeanne says we can start working with them.
 - Signs: Who Bakes Your Bread? Things taste better with fairness. No Justice No Bread. RAR photographer is embedding with them, as well as a video person. The workers are using this hashtag: #TomCatWorkersRise. They will work with Comms to come up with other hashtags.
 - It’s not too late for TomCat to adopt the best practices. There are many other targets. If Tomcat does it, we can move on to other targets.
- Passed around the rent bag to pay for the hall.
- Teach-in on single payer health care. (vote)
 - Jake - Do we want to empower the Facilitation and Education groups to bring in speakers for 20-30 minute presentations, or approve them one at a time as they are proposed?
 - Question: Why don’t we get speakers from working groups?
 - Question: How are you choosing?
 - Question: Do we pay them for speaking?
 - Process to make a speaker suggestion: contact Education@risesandresist.org
The idea is to coordinate so that groups don’t schedule speakers at the same time.

- Question: How do we deal with controversial speakers, esp. elected officials? Do we vote on those? Andy suggests that elected officials be proposed in advance and voted on. Jake agrees that such speakers will be brought to the floor for a vote. We try to get them to speak pro bono, and if not, get someone else.
- Floor votes to approve empowering the committees.
- Jake has a speaker to propose on the subject of Single Payer Health Care - Bob Lederer (suggested by Annette, who works in the field)... Straw poll on dates: Feb 27, March 6, March 20.
- Communications
 - Wrolf- postcards
 - Andy - Again asks newcomers to raise hands so Harris can get their emails.
 - media@riseandresist.org
 - Contact Andy if you have access to copiers and can print agendas/flyers, etc.
 - Video from State of Disgrace - look for it on facebook and share it.
 - Comms weekly meeting on Tuesdays 6pm before this mtg.
 - Jake asked who follows RAR on various social media profiles. We are under-subscribed on Instagram, so follow us at: risenresistnyc. If we get 10,000 followers, we become eligible to link to things, a milestone that's helpful for organizing.
- Immigration Committee and report on Ravi
 - Captured by ICE at a check-in. 20 agents, 10 cars, for just one person. He knew he was targeted because he was a leader of NY Sanctuary coalition.
 - By order of a federal judge he was released this week. Interview with Ravi posted today. His release was granted because his capture was inhumane. He is scheduled to be before a judge again and may be deported then.
 - Feb 7 DC action protest with Center for Popular Democracy re: Dreamers
 - Join Immigration group: Meets every other Thursday.
 - Mel - Meet and greet at Holy Rood Church, 178th Street, Sat Feb 3, 5-8pm. Information/training about how to keep our sanctuary people safe in our sanctuary spaces. They need security around the clock. Get phone number from Mel if you want to attend the training/party on Saturday.
- Presidents' Day action
 - Jay - Monday, Feb 19, late afternoon-early evening. Last year we did a big public event, and this year's we're doing something a little more nuanced, focused on immigration. Wollman Rink in Central Park. It is completely branded with Trump stuff. A day of ice skating with RAR will be posted. Components of it will be a vague action. Issue with the rink is that admission is \$15 per person, and renting skates costs \$15 additional. RAR tries to help offset the cost so that more can attend. Raising the subject- asking the floor if we can cover some of those costs.
 - Suggestion from floor to take a separate collection for this event.

- Question: who will be covered? Thinking about a sliding scale, sign-up
 - Philip - reminds us that the city could not make a go of Wollman rink in the 80's and Trump rescued it. Jay - Yes. It's still owned by the city, but the business is run by Trump.
 - Are there group discounts? We'll look into it.
 - Do you have to skate? No. Sing out Louise may be there, you can join them, etc.
 - We'll check out when the public (free) skating is.
- Impeach Thursday Feb 1, 5:30-6:30
 - Wrolf - last week we were at Fox News and Jamie successfully held our ground. Trump Hotel Columbus Circle
 - Ken plugs the Impeach actions says come and join us.
 - <https://www.facebook.com/events/850736825096288/>
- Update on State of Disgrace - Alexandra, one of 14 people who was arrested, makes a report. Thinks all the pieces worked. We had a big banner, too high for the police to grab. Katrina and Alexandra dropped flyers into the cafeteria and immediately got nabbed. All kinds of RAR folks were there in the lobby looking spiffy. Chanting. People got up and spoke. Lots of RAR folks filming. New York One, CBS covered it.
 - <http://www.ny1.com/nyc/all-boroughs/news/2018/01/30/trump-state-of-the-union-protests-demonstrators-arrests>
 - Arrest part - cops were decent, no-nonsense. Put in the wagon, not segregated by gender (or the cop's perception of gender). Three to a cell. Spent three hours getting to know each other! Three or four supporters were at the jail waiting for them. Some women were in the jail with them - had climbed into the globe at 59th Street.
- Facilitation - Alex - we need folks to take notes, keep time, prepare people to speak to group. Contact Facilitation.

NEW ACTIONS

On back of the agenda are some suggestions for how to present a proposal.

- Election Committee
 - Postcard writing party - Weds Feb 7, 7-9pm, 209 E. 56th Street, #6B. Sending Get Out the Vote cards to Democratic voters in PA for March 13 Special Election. Hosted by Rachel Tornheim rachel.tornheim@gmail.com -. Postcards and snacks will be provided. They will probably mail them themselves. Discussion from floor making sure we don't endorse specific candidates. Floor votes to approve this as RAR event and make a FB page.
- Jeanne - needs 10 people to do the inside action at TomCat. Come see her at the end of the meeting. radiobaron@gmail.com

Non-RAR Actions

- Elka - elka@elka.net March in Schenectady for Andrew Kears Saturday Feb 10. Sponsored by Black Lives Matter of Greater NY, other groups. Schenectady is 3 hours away. Register for the bus Leave 12pm on Feb 10 to arrive at 3:30 and march to the precinct. Angie Kears wants to meet the officer responsible and ask what happened. Peaceful vigil. Email Elka or RSVP to the FB page. We are not endorsing this event, but straw poll of who may attend. About three people.
- 9PM: Five out of 14 of those arrested have been released!