01.29..2019 RAR Meeting Minutes

Facilitators: Livvie, Kellen
Notetaker: Jody

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

Meeting Introduction
- Any law enforcement (none responded), any working journalists (none responded), step up/step back, stay off your phone, raise your hand and give your pronouns
- Any new members this evening – Philip will greet
- Anyone need metrocards to get to/from meetings, talk to Kellen
- Give background on what you’re talking about

Report Backs

Extinction Rebellion (Cherie, Paul)
- About 30 Rise and Resistors participated – about 200 people total
- Slow start but then marched to the ice rink at Rockefeller Center
- RAR didn’t participate in Civil Disobedience but some others did – did Extinction Rebellion symbol on the ice
  - Banner unfurled on statue of Prometheus
  - People also blocked fifth avenue and were arrested
- ABC and NBC news were both there as they were near where they broadcast from
- Effective action
- Signage wasn’t clear what the march was about – needed a clearer message
- They had chants but didn’t really use them
- Marshalling was not good – NYPD was doing the marshalling
- They let NYPD know in advance that there was going to be CD – so they got picked up very quickly
- Told NYPD too much but told activists too little
- Would have signed on and done more if we’d had more of a sense of what was planned
- RAR Environmental Group would like to work with them again
- There was a lot of energy at the end – it just took a while to get there
● The things they messed up on are things that can be changed
● Overall it was a great and successful action – just little quibbles for improvement
● Great press, including Rolling Stone
  ○ We should ask them how they got that press
● Comment: Sarah F (in meeting) is working with them and happy to be a liaison between us and them
● Climate Action Group – new name for our Environmental Action Group
● February 5th – Climate Action lobby day in Albany
● Some members of Climate Action Group planning to go if others would like to

**Arrest Trump Action** (Jamie, Rick)

● 30-40 people all together
● Did this action because tonight was supposed to be the State of the Union
● Had a great new “ARREST TRUMP” banner designed by Mary
● Q: There was an incident with a heckler – didn’t see it – can you talk about it more?
● A: There was a heckler there and Sandi was filming which helped to diffuse.
● A: Someone in our group took the bait – she was a professional troll – wouldn’t give her name. Clearly wanted someone to do something – she was filming. Someone grabbed her Trump 2020 banner. RAR folks will talk to that person about not taking the bait in the future.
● Comment: Act.tv covered the protest – it’s up to 92,000 views. Please watch it and share it – the more views it gets, the more likely people will cover it. Fox TV was also there getting b-roll.
● Act.tv also asked if people would come up and talk to them. Please talk to them but ask who they are first.
● We had a lot of passersby stick around which was nice.
● Comment: another woman pulled up our banner – it felt really violent. Only advice is to not say anything to hecklers.
● Comment: People really reacted to the size of the banner – it’s a great banner.
● Great action!

**Facilitation** (Jennifer VD)

● Livvie and Kellen make it look easy up here
● There’s an ongoing facilitation group – a call every Monday to discuss agenda, etc
● We are looking for new additional facilitators
● Facilitation training – talk about what works and what doesn’t. Experienced people talk about what works, what doesn’t
● Are there people in this room who are interested in a facilitation training?
  ○ A few maybes
● Saturday, March 2 – possible date – 2 hour meeting – time and place TBD
● If you’re feeling shy, please still think about coming to the training
● You should come even if you have some opinions about how the meetings go and want to share those.

Next week – we will be back at 320 West 37th Street for the General Meeting (7 pm)

February task list
● Note-taking, open and close, greeting, slides
● February 26 – need a notetaker
● Need a laptop for notes and slides, but if you don’t have one and want to do one of those, please speak up

Elevator Actions Group (Tim, Jennifer VD)
● Emergency Press Conference tomorrow morning at 11am at 53rd Street and 7th Ave regarding woman who fell down the stairs there yesterday and died
  ○ It is not an accessible station
● CIDNY (Center for Independent Living NY) will be leading the action tomorrow
● Asking for endorsement
● We’ve been talking about this for over a year – there’s been no commitment – Cuomo is blocking it.
● There will be a meeting on Thursday presenting a wishlist of 50 accessible stations
  ○ 1 Whitehall Street, 17th floor – sponsored by Transit Center
  ○ 11 am on Thursday, January 31
  ○ Lots of politicians speaking
● Action tomorrow is something where there should be protest
● Q: What If anything has the Governor put in his budget proposal for elevators
● A: Nothing. The Fast Forward plan has had a great reaction but no money has been committed.
● It is horrific that it might take a death for anyone to commit money to this.
● Cuomo is starting to pick on the MTA
● VOTE: To endorse this press conference/protest
● PASSED overwhelmingly
● Please come tomorrow at 11am – 53rd Street and 7th Avenue

Read and Resist (Andy)
● Monthly resistance reading group
● Next month: environment book
● Two choices: Sixth Extinction, an Unnatural History by Elizabeth Kolbert or This changes Everything: Capitalism vs the Climate by Naomi Klein
● Comment (Martin) – the company he works for publishes Sixth Extinction and he can get free copies
● Straw poll on which book – This Changes Everything was favored

Howard Schultz (Andy)
● Not a Rise and Resist action
● Last night Howard Schultz was speaking at Barnes and Noble
● Howard Schultz talking about running for President – might split the democratic vote
● It was a ticketed sold out event – bought a copy of the book and went to the overflow area which was stanchioned off from the ticketed area
● The space wasn’t full so they let people in from the overflow area
● Andy had an idea of what he wanted to say – had workedshopped a bit and consulted with others
● Important to emphasize that he’s a billionaire and trying to buy his way in
● Yelled 3-4 lines before security got him
  ○ Don’t help elect Trump you egotistical billionaire asshole
  ○ Go back to getting ratio’d on Twitter
  ○ Go back to Davos with the billionaire elite – you billionaires think you know how to run the world but that’s not what democracy needs
● Comment: Starbucks uses prison labor to manufacture a lot of their stuff – you should ask him about that next time you see him
● They dragged him out and his book was left behind.
● A well placed heckle will overshadow any sort of messaging he was trying to get from that event
● Schultz was on the CBS Morning Show and they played the clip to his face
● Would be good to plan on some heckling informally – there will be lots of opportunities as campaigns heat up
● Get our message across and messes with theirs
● Talk to Andy if you want some tips

Any new people since the meeting began? Philip will greet.

Seeking Asylum is Not a Crime (Donna, Paul)
● Back by popular demand: Seeking Asylum is not a Crime
● People liked it a lot – going to try to do it once per week for four weeks
● Alternating Thursdays and Fridays and Oculus and Grand Central
● Big banner and signs
● Oculus is indoor and better than being outside
  ○ People move slower and take film and photos
● Grand Central – people are rushing
● We will start giving people information on where to reach out and what to do
● Q: Are you looking for another endorsement for this?
● A: Yes, since it’s a newly repeating action
● Q: Have you thought about some of the other transit hubs around the city?
● A: We have but these two do seem to be the best but they’re open to suggestions. We’ve talked about other indoor spaces – need a large indoor public space with lots of traffic. The space at Penn Station and Staten Island Ferry Terminal doesn’t work as well. As it gets warmer, open to other outdoor spaces too.
Comment: the brilliant thing about the Oculus is it’s a tourist trap too – lots of international tourists which adds another layer to the action

Comment: perhaps the transportation hubs in the immigrant communities too

Q: Is the Oculus public property?

A: Not entirely - It’s run privately

Comment: maybe incorporate some movement into the action

Dates: February 7 at the Oculus at 5:30 pm

Friday, February 15 at Grand Central at 5:30 pm

Thursday, February 21 at the Oculus at 5:30 pm

Friday, March 1 at Grand Central at 5:30 pm

**VOTE: Rise and Resist to endorse these actions**

**PASSED overwhelmingly**

State of the Union Day of Actions (Jamie)

- February 5<sup>th</sup> – rescheduled date
- Stacey Abrams is giving the rebuttal
- It will be big and newsworthy
- We can do a repeat of today or Actions can come up with something different at
- There will be some vague actions
- Do we want to go back to the Trump Hotel? Or task Actions to come up with a new location
- Straw poll: preference to come up with other locations
- Actions meeting: tomorrow 6-8 pm, UAW, 256 West 38<sup>th</sup> St, 12<sup>th</sup> fl – get there a little before 6pm because the door gets locked.
- Can we pre-endorse without the location?
- **VOTE: to endorse without location**
- **PASSED overwhelmingly**

- Q: Stick with the same theme or do something else?
- A: We have a lot of paraphernalia so it will be the same theme
- Q: Can you change the time to 5:30 pm? Foot traffic
- A: It’s hard because it’s the night of the meeting. But we’ll see where we end up.

LGBTQ Migrant Caravan (Martin)

- Trying to help Vivian who is trying to find sponsors for LGBTQ immigrants
- Asked for endorsement of GoFundMe
- LGBTQ “migrant caravan” from Guatemala – stuck in Guatemala trying to cross into Mexico
  - Weren't planning on being stuck there so long – funds are running low
  - Raising funds for the caravan
- Asking for endorsement and a budget of $100 for facebook advertising
- Q: I just made my first GoFundMe donation and there’s a fee of 10% - is there another way to do this?
• A: Vivian is pretty stretched thin to change directions at this point. GoFundMe benefits lots of people in need. But I think you can donate to GoFundMe without paying the fee [follow up from later in the meeting - you can]
• Q: What else does she need from us?
• A: She’s pretty focused on getting the money at this time, but there will probably be other asks down the road. But please get the word out about this project.
• Comment: Did you talk to Vivian today? The third caravan was attacked on Sunday on the border of Mexico and Guatemala on Sunday. One person died and their kitchen was destroyed.
• VOTE: To provide budget of $100 for facebook ads and sponsor gofundme campaign
• PASSED overwhelmingly

Gays Against Guns Valentine’s Day (Maryellen, Virginia)
• Feb 14th – Mend Our Broken Hearts in DC
• Every year GAG has an action on Valentine’s Day for the last 2 years
• Last year, action in DC in the Hart Building at the same time that the Parkland Massacre happened
• This year: leaving around 6 am – free bus to DC. Will return around 5 pm from DC.
• Disruption in Hart Building
• Will visit representatives offices earlier in the day – speak truth to power
• Gays Against Guns meeting this Thursday at 7 pm and will be working out some of these details
• There will be possibility of risking arrest
• GAG Human Beings dress all in white to represent someone who has been killed by gun violence and stand in silence. You can volunteer to do this.
• Asking for RAR’s endorsement to promote action
• Please join them on the trip
• Planning supplemental poster party/spray painting on Feb 9th at Lucky’s Bar in Manhattan or Berg’n in Brooklyn
• To memorialize anniversary of massacre
• But also pushing HR8 – to close loopholes on gun shows
• Q: Are there any other gun control groups involved in this day of action
• A: GAG Ohio is coming and the DC Chapter. Moms Demand Action may be joining as well. Parkland reps may also join them. A lot of the other groups don’t do direct action.
• VOTE: To endorse GAG Action
• PASSED overwhelmingly
• Email Maryellen if you want to get involved: nycmaryellen@gmail.com

Part Two to the DC Trip (Virginia)
• February 15th is the last day of the CR that was signed
• Important time to be in DC
• Could we do the Friday of “Seeking Asylum is not a Crime” in DC instead?
- Can we get this message to Congress that they need to start writing humane immigration laws
- Reached out to the brick jumpsuit people
- Reached out to Center for Popular Democracy – might be doing something on the 12th
- This is in the aspirational stage – don’t have a bus or anything
- Reaching out to the right congresspeople who might write this legislation
- Talk to Virginia if you’re interested.
- If not the 15th, then soon.
- Comment: During this 3 week reprieve, there’s a group of Senators who are working on legislation that they hope Trump will sign. What about moving it sooner? That legislation will be written by then.
- Comment: you might want to connect with the Kremlin Annex as they have a nightly vigil.
- Comment: Also Code Pink is down there

**Elections** (Livvie)
- Child Victims Act did pass in Albany this week
- Elections probably not meeting the next 2 weeks as they’ll be in Albany

**Elevator Action Group** (Jennifer VD)
- A group committed to making the subway system accessible
- Thursday, January 31, Transit Center (one of our coalition groups) is doing a map release – 50 stations for Fast Forward to look at first at 11am at Transit Center, 1 Whitehall Street, 17th floor
- Following week – MTA Discussion of Next Accessible Stations – February 6th (Wednesday) at 2 Broadway, 20th floor (MTA Office) – 6-8 pm
- February 11th – CIDNY – making a trip to Albany to discuss accessibility with legislators and perhaps the Governor – talk to Timothy if you’re interested
- Talk to Jennifer if want more info

**Postcards** (Mary, Rachel)
- Wrote 82 postcards for Eric Coleman in Tennessee – running for State Senator
- Writing Valentine’s for Coalition orgs we work with - sign them at the back of the room
- Mary has postcards – trying to get 3500 postcards sent to a gallery in Tornillo, TX – if you want one, Mary will give you one.
- Next Postcard party February 21 – 209 East 56th St, Apt 6B - 7 pm
- Asking for an endorsement for the art project to get the postcards to Tornillo
  - They’ve been doing lots of art projects like this in Tornillo
  - Eventually maybe the postcards will go to kids
  - Q: how are the postcards helping kids if no kids are actually there?
  - A: They’re going to do a big gallery show in El Paso. This is more a support of the movement – doing an art show. Not about the cards going to the kids.
  - Q: Who are these postcards written to?
A: They are symbolically written in support of the kids/to the kids. Eventually we would like to get the cards to the children.
Q: So where are the postcards going?
A: They will hang them around the city and in the gallery space

VOTE: To endorse the postcard Tornillo art project
PASSED with one abstention

Comms (Dann, Martin)
- If you want graphics for an action, email media@riseandresist.org and either Mary or Dann will make something
- Rise and Resist blog – starting to publish pieces on Tuesday
- If you’re interested in writing email media@riseandresist.org
- Compiling a press list with Livvie – let them know if you have press contacts or access to press lists
- Website is a little out of date so if any groups can send updates media@riseandresist.org

Immigration (Mel, Judy)
- Jackson Heights Immigrant Solidarity is asking for petitions to support Wilfredo Flores – he was on a bus to Seattle and the bus unexpectedly crossed briefly into Canada and he was detained by ICE
- His family raised $10k to pay his bond to get him back to NYC
- He and his wife have 3 young kids – the kids are traumatized
- Petition to support Wilfredo – being passed around
- Go to JHImmigrantSolidarity.org to sign petition online

Finance (Robert)
- Net Worth $13,600 (up $300)
- Collected $160 for rent
- Storage unit has gone up by $5 per month more than we thought it was starting in May 2018
- VOTE to approve paying excess
- APPROVED

Non Rise and Resist Actions and Announcements

Training next Saturday for VOCAL-NY for Court Watch (Maria)
- Empower low income communities
- Get eyes and ears into the courtroom to observe prosecutors with an eye to reform
- Saturday, Feb 9 1-5 pm – location in Long Island City TBD
- Interested, email nina@VOCAL-NY.org
- https://vocal.ourpowerbase.net/civicrm/event/register?reset=1&id=2018
Owner of restaurant in Bronx (Cotter)

- Yajira – arrested because undercover cop wanted to operate out of restaurant and they refused to close
- Unclear why she was arrested – she’s a DACA recipient
- Community meeting with NYPD next Wednesday 6:30-7:30 – Lincoln Hospital Room #4, 234 E 149th Street, Bronx
- Would be great to have a strong show of support for Yajira.

Erik McGregor Fundraiser (Andy)

- Talented photographer who covers most of our actions
- Facebook event to donate to support him
- Q: I am not on facebook – is there a way I can donate aside from facebook?
- A: There’s a link which we will share around via Twitter and the newsletter. It’s a PayPal link.
- https://erikmcgregorphotography.blogspot.com/

Rally tomorrow at 9 am (Andy)

- Regarding Amazon in Queens
- City Hall at 9am followed by hearing at 10am

UNPRESIDENTED mock Washington Post is available in the back of the room

Meeting adjourned.

### Rise And Resist ###