RAR minutes 12/12/17

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
• Next Meeting: Tuesday at 7pm at the LGBT Center: www.gaycenter.org

Facilitators: Jamie Bauer
Jay Walker

7:01 Introductions
Mission statement
New members? Applause and handouts.
Law enforcement in the room? No answer.
Media in the room that are planning on writing about us? No. OK if there are,
Reminder about using pronouns to honor non-binary folks.
Those who don't usually speak, please feel welcome to do so. If you speak a lot, remember that we will pick the one who hasn't spoken. This is what we call
Stepping up/stepping back.
First three rows for people who need them

Report backs

December 2nd Future of the City

Elka

We were not prepared for internal conflicts
There may have been warning signs we didn't notice
The first organizing meeting there were only 2 guys from BLMGNY and 5 of us and we gave the benefit of the doubt
But as we kept going to later meetings there were many different people and not a consistent group
Before we made the commitment to cosponsor that we should have had more research
When we reviewed their website their staff is only 3

Budget
We didn't know how much they had committed to it
When the printing had to happen, etc., they had not provided funds so we ended up having to pay.
A lot of the student works did not end up being displayed.
We did not have permission from the teachers early enough to publish the video taken with the students.

We agreed to sponsor it as a march but then at the meetings they said that they wanted to do reenactments or a rally.

Dann
It’s important to know going forward that we need point people for coalition building.
Some of us felt uncomfortable preaching to a Black empowerment group.
A lot of the messaging was not locked in so it made the social media hard.

Susan
I want to thank them first of all for making this happen.
I think the major issue is the generosity of the floor.
Someone charismatic came and pitched the group and we committed to something without looking into it.

Jeanne
I think we should define this participation as a learning exercise but also as a success.
Without us that march would not have happened at all.
Everyone agreed on the demands, regardless of “splinters”.
I would not want us to overcommit financial resources.
As a predominantly white group I think we do need to be careful how we approach building coalition respectfully.

Jake
I would agree with that but I do think it is worthwhile to research.
There were some problems that we couldn’t have foreseen; there were several things that were thrown at us.

Mark H
I would agree that this is a learning experience.
Is there a process to debrief with the students to help them access what happened.
What went right and what can we do better next time?

Elka
This was a follow up on the march from last year.
The students were not really aware of what was going on outside the building.
They were on the news.
They have 2 teachers, Mario, they would probably
Immigration
Alexandra and Ann
12/5 and 12/6
Two different marches on DC
There were more RAR at the Tuesday rally (20 in a large group with Housing Works)
We target 12-14 swing vote legislators
We chanted, sat down, were arrested (gave support)
One of the buses was 90 mins late so it was slightly chaotic

Zach
Over 100 people were arrested
Very inspiring protest
There’s another bus going down tomorrow (12/13)
The tax bill is being finalized and may come up next week

Ann
Two weeks ago when the Senate approved their version
Being able to go down feels like we expanded that limited window a lot
Any and everything you can do, with going down or calling, etc., is great

Jamie
The bus to go down is free and a meal is provided
If you get arrested, the bail will be paid for you
When you get out there is pizza
If you can go down, please do consider it

Alexandra
The info for the trip is going out as a handout

Impeach Thurs Dec 7
Alex - encroaching on freedom of the press Held at Federal Hall. Lot of crowd response, lots of RAR folks, pro-Trump folks showed up. We ere good at keeping them backed away.

Fundraiser on Dec 10th at Nowhere Bar
Tom
Martin organized our participation
Queer handcrafts fair for Xmas
T-shirts, pins, hats, and buttons
+ ~ $960
9 people were involved in transporting all the materials, etc.,
Lorenzo, Harris, both Jennifers, Martin, Jim, Ivy, Leslie
We still have a couple hundred shirts that we are still trying to sell out to move onto the online store
Contact Tom to help

**Disability teach-in**

Jennifer B
Disability and disability justice and accessibility of actions
I have cerebral palsy, it’s a neurological condition that affects your physicality, and I had it when I was born
One of the common ways is that I was suffocated by the umbilical cord, born dead, and revived. I do have brain damage (though I do not like the term damage)
It affects my balance, my walking, and my speech
Because it affects my speech, people assume that I have other disabilities, such as intellectual, or am drunk/deaf/on drugs, etc.
I grew up like most young physical disabled people, we’re taught to pretend that there’s nothing wrong, to act abled bodied and fit into able bodied society. I didn’t know many other disabled people until I was 30. I went to all mainstream schools, and only knew a few people with CP in college but not closely.
When I was 30 I started working for a website for people with disabilities and met a community
I then edited a book of poetry, the first, of all disabled authors
Now I know a much larger disabled community, with a variety of conditions
Many of my friends have mental illness, etc.
As I got older my perception of disability changed, and went 100% the opposite way, just so you know I (Jennifer Bartlett) am a little extreme even within the disabled community
There’s nothing wrong with being disabled and nothing that I or anyone else can do about it
It’s part of my identity, just like being white, or being mother, or being polyamorous, it’s just one of my many identities
That is the hard part in activism
Disabled activists see disabled people the same as they see POC, Queer/LGBT, or women
We consider ourselves a minority or community
Many people do not accept that we would be thought of the same as a minority
When you see disability as a problem or a weakness or otherness, you can’t fight for it the same way as you would for women, etc.
Some people may see it as a personal problem or something to be avoided
I have been an activist through poetry, though it does not reach a lot of people, for a long time
I have been extremely liberal
My father tried to join the Black Panthers
But this is my first time trying to be part of an activist group
I hated going to rallies and marches
I think RAR is good about this
There is an issue that inspires a march, but it often gets diluted. Categorically activists often do not include disabled people, they don’t make actions accessible and don’t often mention ableism in their messaging. I have been in a fight with several other activist groups because of them refusing to include disabled people despite my repeated requests. I came to RAR because my husband (Jim) My husband was at a meeting where someone suggested to chain people in wheelchairs to block traffic, but the Healthcare group was very responsive to this, so I felt encouraged to come. The group was very receptive to me, and other people with disabilities started to join the Healthcare group, so I stayed. I was one of the people that helped to form the elevator because the healthcare group seemed to have won, so I could focus on other things. To fight for respect and acceptance for disabilities people need to be able to see them.

There were laws that barred you from leaving the house if you had a “deformity”, people were often institutionalized, etc. But we are still inhibited by the inaccessibility of the subway. To increase visibility for people with disabilities as well I have had to sit in rooms my whole life where people said horrible things about disabled people, I have faced employment discrimination, but I became a high school teacher and my principal said “thank god we’re not wheelchair accessible because who knows what they’d be sending us”

Jennifer VD
I have been on a steep learning curve, but I am very glad that I got involved with the Elevator Action Group. It wasn’t until several months in till I realized that I had a very deep personal connection, my father had passed recently but spent the last year of his life in a wheelchair. That was also a very steep learning curve. We had a thwarted campaign using stickers to say “Elevator Fail” and I went through the city trying to find them for the first time to mark them and couldn’t. They are often not working, they are dirty, etc. Once you notice how poor the conditions are, you can’t unsee it. I have been driven by the idea that if I didn’t see, but know I do, is that other people could learn to as well. Very concretely in NYC, Cuomo, etc., historically, have said the population of wheelchair users is such a small portion of the population that we can focus on other things. Elevators are for everyone: elderly, disabled, injured, mothers, delivery people, etc. In the list of the top 10 cities in the US, NY is dead last of the 10 Boston is 100% accessible, and we are only 22%.

Jennifer B
In order to make rallies/actions more accessible, there is a handout for resources.

Length of route is important to consider
Don’t include vehicles that exclude people like bicycles, or if you do, include a portion for others that cannot do that
Most importantly I would like for language that relates to disability in any of the large overarching unity actions

Elka
Jennifer B you have always been so visible since I joined in Feb, so I really appreciate your example
You are definitely helping to create an example that might bring others to RAR

Jennifer
Yeah I’m very radical, but that are many other people like me
I certainly cannot speak for all people with disability, but there are many that would agree with me and we have art, literature, etc.
But yes even the media hasn’t necessarily accepted disability

Ray
Knowing you has been a transformative experience; you have changed me as a person in knowing you
I think one of the most important things about knowing you is that, we talk about getting rid of Trump, but also you’re someone that helps me to see what I want our society to grow like

Tim
I don’t think a lot of people remember that I am deaf, and people do not do a good job of accommodating that
What really scares me is that Betsy Devos is pulling out resources from schools for children that had previously had accommodations
And Trump is trying to do away with the ADA

Alexandra
The trips to Washington have been incredibly educational for me
Had they not been there and been at the front the last bill would definitely had gotten through
Even once we were arrested one time I noticed that the able-bodied people were only talking amongst each other and the disabled group was very welcoming when I made a point to go speak to them
I have even noticed when different actions have seemed less conducive for accessibility

Betsy
Have we considered having someone doing sign as a part of the facilitation?

Tim
I’ve asked for it and it was said that we couldn’t afford it

Jamie
This obviously needs to be discussed at greater length, but not now on the floor, that’s not the time or the place

Jay
Maybe even posting to look for a volunteer

Money bag - $432.36

Tom Cat repeating action

We have a win! Jean George dropped their account with Tom Cat, and they did it because we are out there protesting at Robert
Tonight we are meeting at McKenna’s at 14th street, with a beer on us and having to write a yelp
Thank to Le bernadan,
Scorch Rober(t)
Jeanne has prewritten copy to riff off of for writing these yelp reviews

Many undocumented workers had been there for many many years
Tom Cat was faced with an immigration audit, which is a new tactic, and let go these workers with unfair conditions
Tom Cat has refused to negotiate with them
If Tom Cat does answer to the conditions from the workers, then they can be the poster child for good business practices

Rick
Is there a list of restaurants to avoid?
Jeanne
They have about 1000 clients and we only know about 50, so please ask whenever you are dining

ERT
There is an open seat that needs to be filled

The last time we had people volunteer it was an exact amount, so now that we have more people than the seat available there will be an election

ERT nominees
Rolf - experience. Has done event organizing with RAR. Is on the Actions committee and will represent them to the ERT.
Tim - experience from being on ERT of ACTUP. Is on the internet 24 hours day.
Alex - younger person to represent their interests on the ERT. Talking about how we codify norms/processes as an org, arguing for better transparency.
No other volunteers. Voting slips were passed out and collected.

HealthCare / Tax

Processes underway to work out differences between Senate and House versions. Anticipating that votes will start next week, assuming that the proposal does come out on Friday. Potentially by Tues/Weds next week, they could have a vote. Our strategy is to delay and divide. Targeting a handful of both House and Senate members. Deny them the talking points are around Senate bill repealing individual mandate, deductability of local taxes, weakening the child tax credit. Whether to slightly raise the corporate tax rate to 22%, collapse down the number of tax brackets.
Freedom caucus of House is most vocal on this. Sen. Collins is very key here. Sen. Corker is opposed. If we can flip Collins, we can
Target to flip Sen Flake potentially Sen. Rubio from FL. Rubio is trying to carry forward Ivanka Trump’s proposal.
Actions: Phone back by Communication workers of America, offices in Financial District and SI.
DC actions tomorrow 12/13 - is meeting of Conference Committee (may be the only meeting of it).
Mark Hanay -
We leave at 5:30 am Walgreen’s Union Square 4th Ave. Sign up for the bus on the handout.
Next Monday 12/18 on Capitol Hill. Will be lead by medical professionals in work attire.
When does the bus come back? When everybody who has been arrested is released.
In the past it has been leaving DC about 10pm. Bus returns to 14th and 4th.
Where does the bus stop near the Capitol? Ask the bus driver.
Mark Milano - a lot of us have been going multiple times and are exhausted, we need some fresh blood. Even if you don’t fill out the form, there’s usually room on the bus.
Folks with disabilities have been on the forefront of this fight. If you are disabled, there will be assistance to help get you there.
Tomorrow’s march is sponsored by women’s rights and women’s health care orgs.

Betsy and Jeanne - Anniversary Coalition
met on Saturday discussing action for after State of the Union address

Finance.
Rob
If you have money to deposit, there are envelopes at the front at each meeting.
$8541 in bank account. We made the rent.
Andy - new section of RAR website devoted to Finance. If you can’t find it, email us at finance@riseandresist.org.

Fundraising
Susan and Dann –
We’ve decided to place ads on FB for RAR shirts, etc. Requesting $100 to place the ads. Ads have been successful in the past, more people clicking, more people made aware of us. We will sell two of the old designs (Rise and Resist and Immigrants are welcome here) and two new designs discussed at a previous meeting. We start with $20 ads and go from there if those work.
Amanda - wants to register her feeling that we should not contribute any money to any kind of corporate entity such as FB. Feels that would make us lose some activist/grassroots integrity.
Dann responds - doesn’t necessarily disagree with that, and thinks we should discuss that some more.
All in favor of giving $100 - motion passes, but narrowly.

Immigration - Donna.
Next mtg of committee is 7pm Dec 14 at Elka’s 208 Ave B, #1, between 12th/13th.
Mel - We are now working in coalition with the Legal Aid attys about the issue of ICE working in collusion with the officers of the courts.

Comms –
Dann asks if there are any new people?
Andy - updating website. Wants to get content from working groups for the other pages. If you have specific needs, contact Comms. meia@riseandresist.org
Dann - join us at our meetings if interested, currently even have bagels
Andy wants to bring in more people from outside Comms to work on website, Has guidelines they’ve developed and are excited to move the group forward. Guidelines for interpersonal interaction and for content. If you want to use the guidelines in your own group media@riseandresist.org
Working with Resistance Media Collective to make kits that RAR and others can use.

Dec 14 Weekly impeach
5:30 at Fox News, 6th ave/48th St. Short speech calling out the names of 15 women with specific accusations against Trump of actual physical contact abuse. Needs people to read those names. Needs marshals to help us cross the street and read the names again. Would love to have the band from last week’s march there, too. Kellen will contact them.
Elka - Will this be transmitted live? Yes. There is a FB event page and a great graphic we’ll be using on poster.

Wear lots of layers. It will be cold. Feel free to be critical in your posters on the 14th. Will be discussed at Actions Committee Meeting tomorrow at the Center.
Jamie - still working on message for Dec 21 impeach march. Maybe All I Want for Christmas is Impeach. Or something devoted to tax bill. Or a positive vision for something we want, rather than what we are resisting. Potentially attached to that is a Vague Action on Dec 21- a vague action is one that ought to be legal but might not be perceived by the police as legal. Shouldn’t in theory be arrestable but might end up that way.

Elevator Action -
Jessica, Jennifer and Tim Sat 12/16 2-4pm outside Museum of Natural History the southern entrance at 77th Street CPW. Theme: This station is a dinosaur. Will have inflatable dinosaurs. Crayons and drawing, Elevators are for everyone. Bring your own signs using these themes.

**New Action Proposals**
Susan - end of the year discussion Sun 12/17 2:30-4:30 at LGBT Center.

Jake - if we want to do Pride, free registration ends January ’18 so we should keep that in mind.

Result of ERT election: Wrolf won.

**Non-RAR actions.**
Matt - NYC People’s Platform # NYCAactivism.org. Maintains calendar of activist-related events NYC activism calendar

Non-binary genderqueer individuals Coca Cola interviews for casting will.morgan@abramsart.com
From floor: are you aware that Coca Cola kills trade unionists in Colombia?

Andy - Coalition of Jewish groups event on Weds Dec 13, 4:45-5:530 Trump Tower 5th floor, Not-the White House Hanukkah Party protest