

Journey to Equality

Hate and Hope

Federal Housing Finance Agency
Asian Pacific American Heritage Month
May 14, 2020

Jeremy Wu, Ph.D.

- 1979 First APA Heritage Week proclaimed
- 1990 First APA Heritage Month proclaimed
- 1992 APA Heritage Month made permanent



May 7, 1843 – First Japanese immigrants arrived in the U.S.

May 10, 1869 – completion of first transcontinental railroad in the U.S. with significant contributions by Chinese laborers

Outline

- One Asian American's Journey
- On Reflection
- Life after Federal Service
- Stories on Hate and Hope
- Midland, Texas Story
- Summary

Beginning of Journey

The Immigration and Naturalization Act of 1965 raised Chinese immigration quota from 105 to 20,000 per year



This Wu family of 4 came from Hong Kong to Washington D.C.

Within 4 years, my father passed away in his sleep. He was 59.

I was 19, in my third year of college.

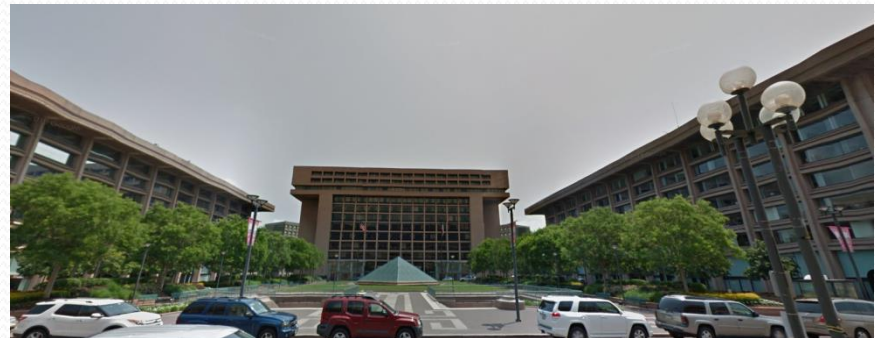
My brother was 15.

My mother spoke hardly any English.

We struggled.

I delivered newspapers, worked as a part-time caterer, and a construction worker for two summers, while continued to study in college and eventually earned my Ph.D. in statistics.

I built L'Enfant Plaza!





I. M. Pei

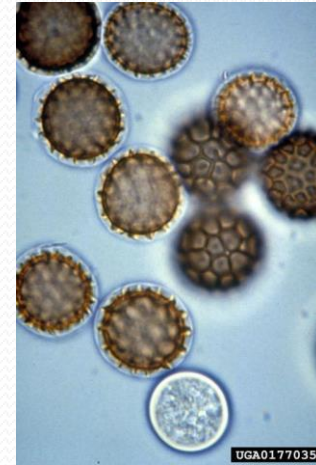
April 26, 1917 - May 16, 2019

World-renowned
American Architect,
including the
L'Enfant Plaza



My Federal Career

- Chief Statistician, Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA
- First Asian American career SES in USDA
- Deputy Director, Office of Civil Rights, USDA
 - Title VI Programs
 - Administration



Tilletia controversa kuhn (TCK)

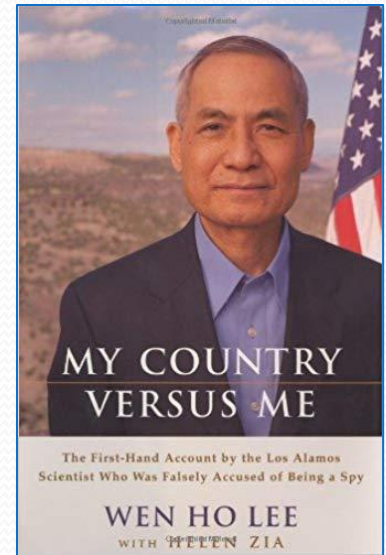
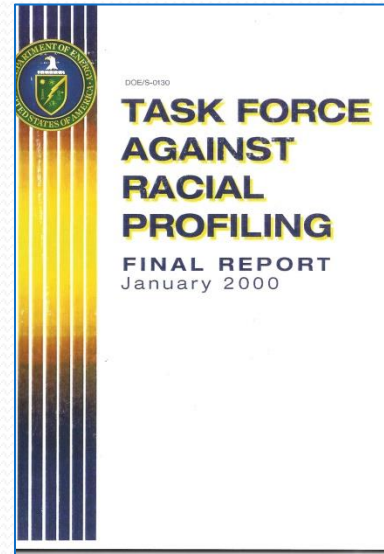


“40 acres and a mule”

National Ombudsman,
Department of Energy

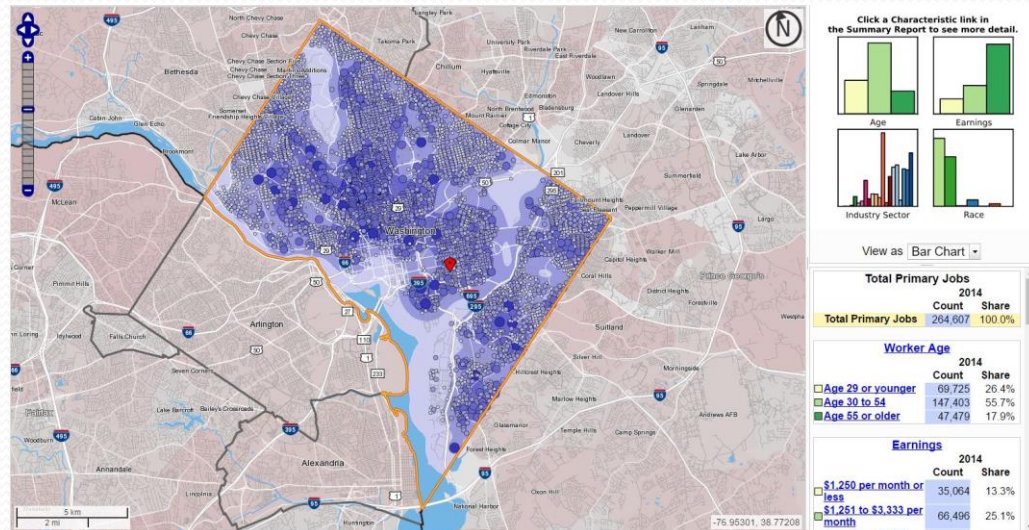
Director, Departmental
Office of Civil Rights,
Department of
Transportation

Acting Chief Statistician,
Bureau of Transportation
Statistics, DOT



Director, Longitudinal
Employer-Household
Dynamics Program,
Census Bureau,
Department of
Commerce

Senior Advisor,
Census Bureau, DOC



On Reflection

- A satisfying two-track federal career
- Federal workforce is among the best
 - Some colleagues become life-long friends
- Public service is filled with challenges
 - You serve the people with important work
 - Different sense of satisfaction and reward
 - Many learning opportunities
 - Mostly unrecognized and under-appreciated
- A journey seeing greater Asian American participation and both hate and hope



Norman Y. Mineta

Born San Jose, CA, November 12, 1931 –

Mayor, San Jose, CA

- First Japanese American mayor of a U.S. city

U.S. House of Representative (CA)

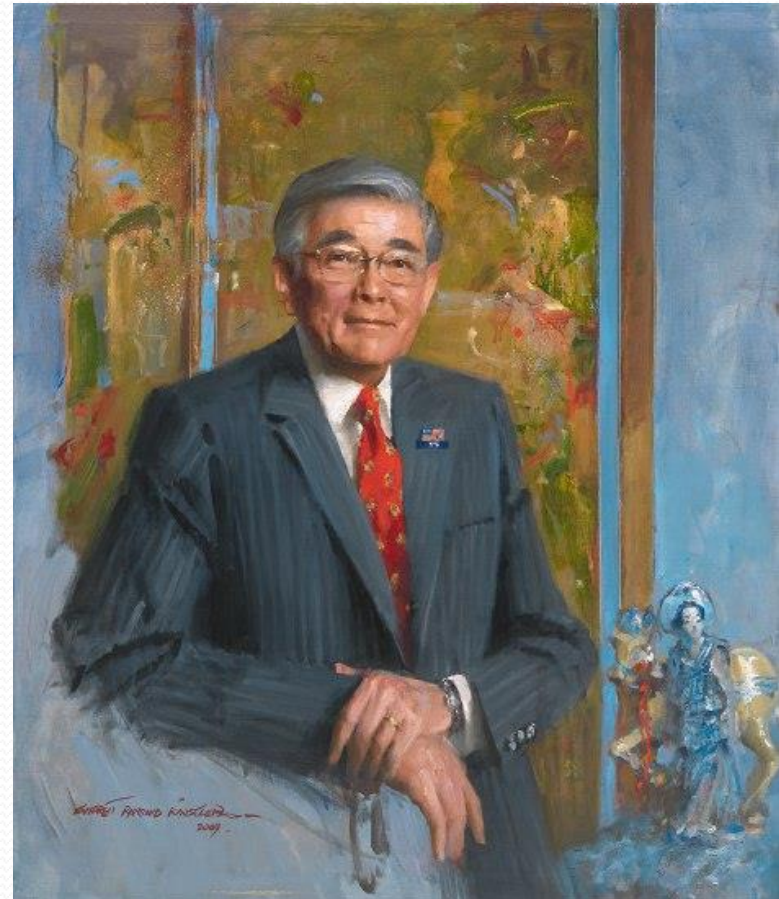
- H.J.R 1007 to proclaim the "Asian Pacific American Heritage Week" of 1978
- Civil Liberties Act of 1988
- Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990

Secretary of Commerce

- First Asian American cabinet secretary

Secretary of Transportation

- 9/11 Grounded all flights
- 9/17 President Bush visited a Muslim mosque
- 9/21 letter to all airlines on no racial profiling



Boy Scout Lost Baseball Bat Twice

Smithsonian Institution

NORM MINETA

DAD! THEY
TOOK AWAY MY
BASEBALL
BAT!



Fact #154



Norman Mineta's baseball bat was confiscated when he was sent to a Japanese-American internment camp as a boy. As a Congressman, he was sent a \$1500 bat, which he had to send back, as it exceeded a price limit on gifts. He was quoted as saying, "The damn government's taken my bat again."

Hate Crime of Misidentity

Balbir Singh Sodhi, 1949-2001

A Sikh American, was shot and killed outside his gas station in Mesa, Arizona. His shooter reportedly told a waitress “I’m going to go out and shoot some towel heads,” and “We should kill their children, too, because they’ll grow up to be like their parents.” This was the first of 645 incidents of violent backlash against fellow Americans in just that first week after 9/11.



Hate Crime of Misidentity

Vincent Chin, 1955-1982



A Chinese American, was killed by an unemployed father and son auto workers in Detroit, Michigan. Chin was mistaken to be Japanese when Japan was a rising economic power. The killers reportedly said "It's because of you little m**f**s that we're out of work!" Chin's head was cracked open by a baseball bat and he died 4 days before his planned wedding.

The killers received 3 years probation and \$3,000 fine for the murder of Vincent Chin.

APA Justice

A series of innocent Chinese American scientists in academia, government, and private industry were wrongly accused of and prosecuted for spying for China and then had their cases all dropped between 2013 and 2015.

The APA Justice Task Force was formed to address racial profiling and related justice and fairness issues for the Asian American community in 2015.

The New York Times

Accused of Spying for China, Until She Wasn't



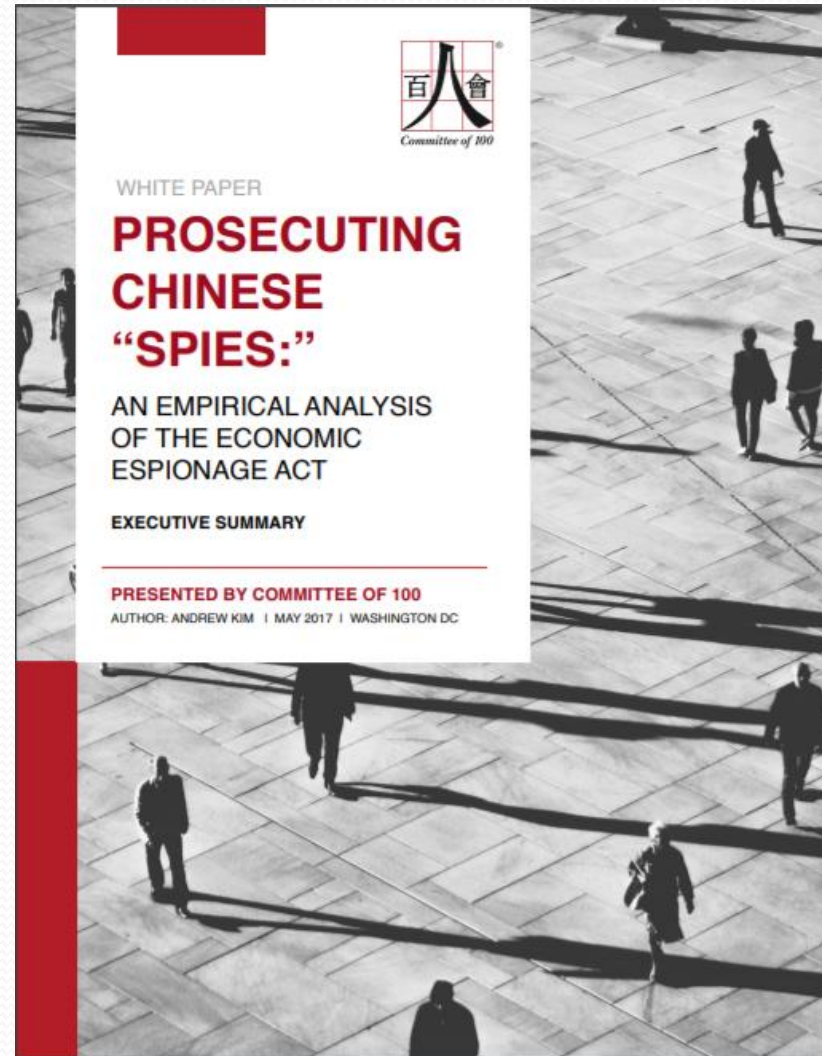
Oct. 2013 – Sep. 2015





2017 white paper on Prosecuting Chinese “Spies:” An Empirical Analysis of The Economic Espionage Act:

- Since 2009, the majority of defendants charged under the EEA have been people of Asian heritage
- Half of EEA cases alleged the of secrets for a USA entity, one third for China, and none for Russia
- Convicted defendants of Asian heritage received sentences twice as severe
- One in five accused “spies” of Asian heritage may be innocent



Core Values of American Justice System

- Punish the guilty appropriately with solid facts and evidence
- Protect the innocent equally regardless of race, ethnicity, or national origin
- Must not target or profile a group of people with suspicion, pretext, or guilt by association

Coronavirus and Hate

San Francisco Chronicle

Coronavirus: Asian Americans across Bay Area, U.S. report 1,500 racist incidents in a month



Tatiana Sanchez | April 29, 2020 | Updated: April 29, 2020 7:25 p.m.

CORONAVIRUS NEW YORK CITY

Coronavirus News: NYPD report shows bias crimes against Asian Americans on the rise

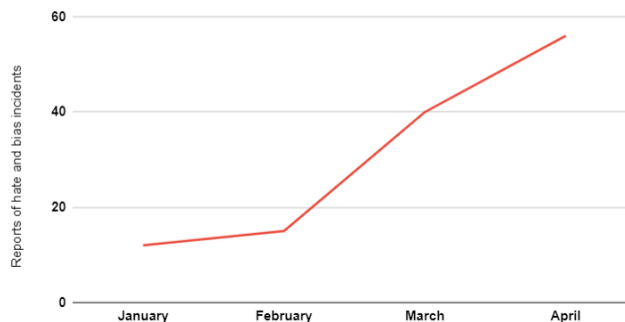


By Lucy Yang

Tuesday, May 5, 2020 9:39AM

Reports of Hate and Bias Incidents in Oregon in 2020

Source: Oregon Department of Justice



Changing America

Shared Destiny. Shared Responsibility.

Respect Sustainability Resilience Enrichment Well-Being Opinion Who We Are

Respect > Equality

Attacks on Asian Americans skyrocket to 100 per day during coronavirus pandemic

Representative Judy Chu said that reports of bigotry and hate crimes against Asian Americans have surged during the coronavirus crisis.



Donald Trump Supreme Court Congress Facts First 2020 Election

LI

FBI concerned about potential for hate crimes during coronavirus pandemic



By Josh Campbell

Updated 4:48 PM ET, Tue April 21, 2020



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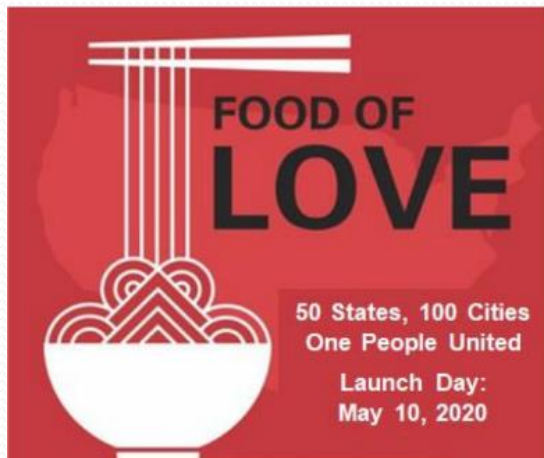
CORONAVIRUS

Over 30 percent of Americans have witnessed COVID-19 bias against Asians, poll says

The surge in anti-Asian bias may reflect a growing tendency to blame certain groups for the pandemic, the polling organization says.

Is There Hope?

Mass mobilization
to donate PPEs and
food nationwide



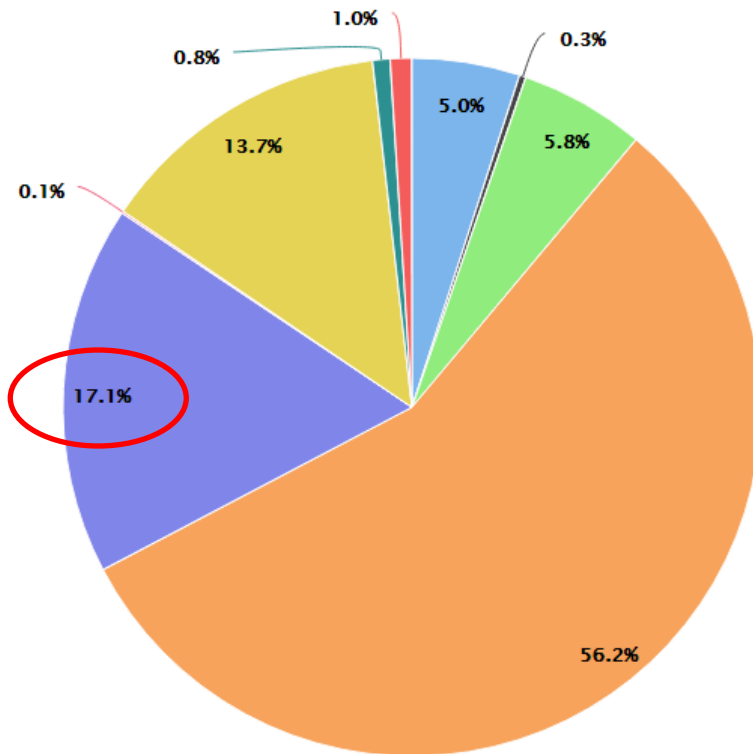
● **YESTERDAY** by Meredith Yang, Organizer



Hi everyone! Just wanted to shoot everyone an update- we've made our first order of 500 KN95 masks to be delivered here in the next few days. Will keep you updated on which institution they will go to. Thank you so much for your support! Please let us know if you have any questions or suggestions.

On The Front Line

Figure 18. Percentage of all active physicians by race/ethnicity, 2018.

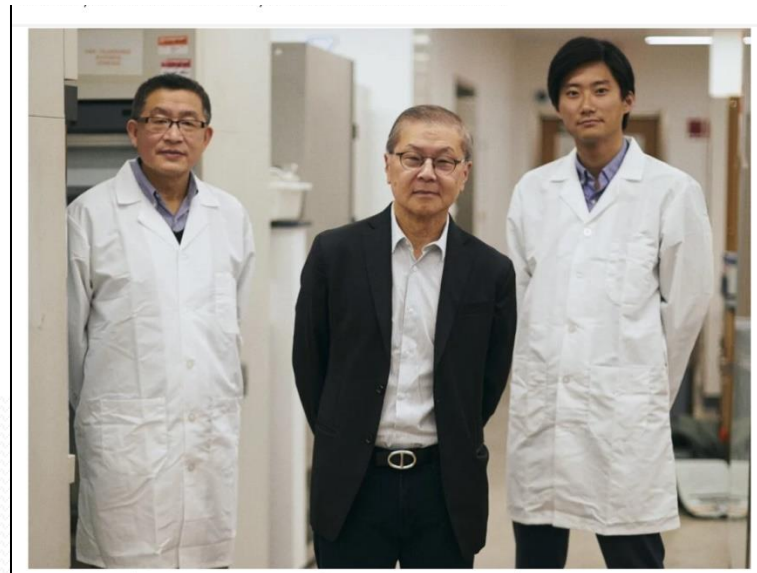


Published on Wednesday, May 06, 2020 by Common Dreams

Chinese Americans' Connections With China Are Not the Threats; They Are American Assets, Especially During Covid-19

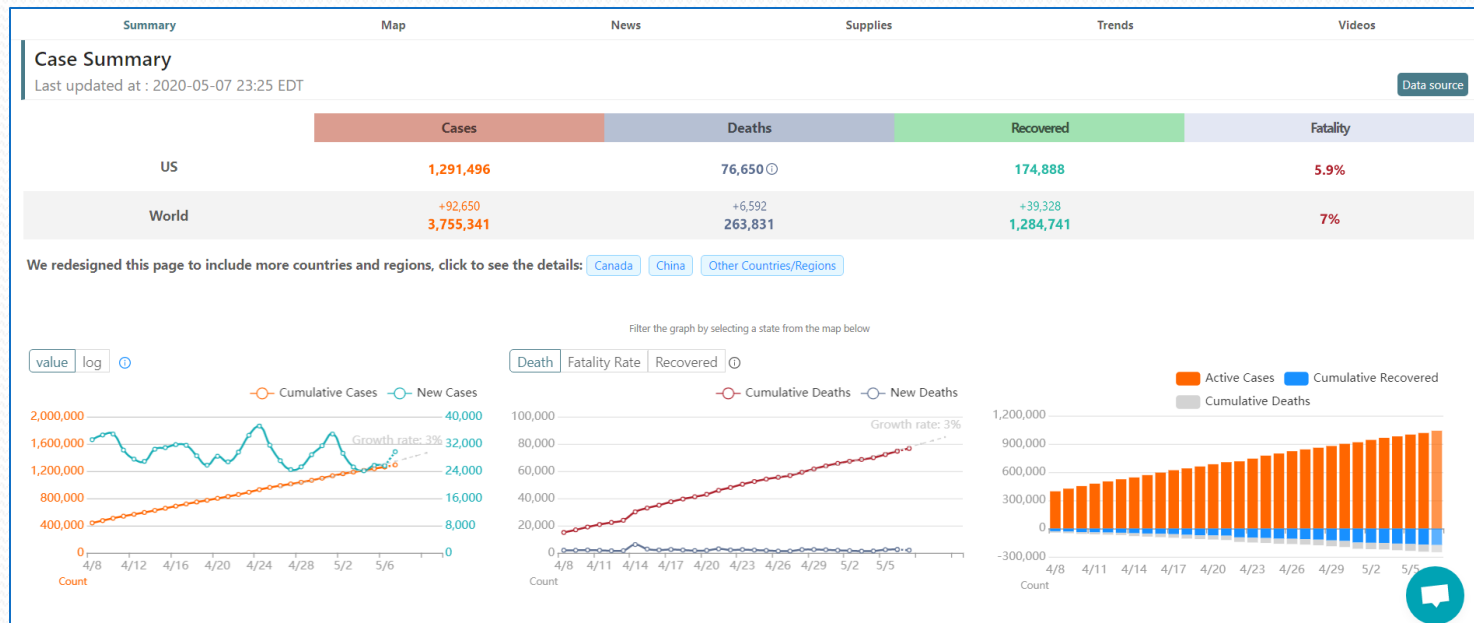
Buried by the news cycles are stories of how Chinese-American doctors, researchers, and community members are standing on the frontline in America's fight against Covid-19.

by Yu Zhou



Keeping All of Us Informed

- Free, real-time, online reports
- World, U.S., state and county level data
- Open, sharable data
- Maps, News, Supplies, Trends, Videos, Links, ... available
- In English and Chinese
- 190 million visits



Share and Support

Essay: Asian American is not a disease

MAHBUBA RAHAT | TUESDAY, MAY 05, 2020

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Mahbuba Rahat

Asia is one of the biggest continents in the world where many different ethnic groups live — not just Chinese. Yet, many Asian Americans are collectively being subjected to racism due to the novel coronavirus outbreak. "There's a longer history of blaming Asia and Asian migrants and, by extension, Asian Americans for outbreaks of disease. COVID-19 is just the most current example of this history," Cathy Ceniza Choy told [the Berkeley News](#) at the University of California.

Along with the fear of the spread, COVID-19 has also given rise to many racist remarks against and harassment of Asian Americans across the country. President Donald Trump categorized COVID-19 as the "Chinese virus." Trump stated at a White House press conference that it could have been stopped in Wuhan, China, where the first case of COVID-19 was discovered.

It is not ethical for someone with high authority to criticize a certain group of people.

 The Jewish News
of Northern California

News Commentary Jewish Life Culture Calendar

OPINION

Asian Americans are facing violent xenophobia during the coronavirus outbreak. Jews have a responsibility to speak out.



BY DYLAN ADELMAN | MARCH 18, 2020

Midland, Texas



October 1987
“Baby Jessica”



Midland, Texas – March 14, 2020

4 stabbed – including 2 kids – at Midland Sam's Club; man charged with attempted murder



According to [KOSA-TV](#), the four victims included two adults and two children; one of the adults was a Sam's Club employee. All were hospitalized at Midland Memorial Hospital, with two of the victims listed in critical condition.

Midland police were still trying to determine a motive for the stabbing attack.



NEWS

Report: Sam's Club stabbing suspect thought family was 'Chinese infecting people with coronavirus'

The Victims



The Heroes



None of the individuals here is Chinese

COMMUNITY

Local heroes meet, victims recovering after Sam's club stabbing

The Customs and Border Protection agent drove from Big Bend State Park to meet with Zach Owen, the Sam's Club employee.

About

On March 14th a Midland father and his son were attacked at our local Sams Club by a disturbed individual. This fund has been created to pay for present and future recovery costs (medical, lost wages, legal costs, etc.)



Reagan Hignojo • March 17, 2020

OPINION: Sam's stabbing victim offers lesson in grace

I recently met a Viktor Frankl in Midland

By Reagan Hignojo and Brandi Addison Published 5:48 pm CDT, Sunday, April 12, 2020



The Asian American community plans to honor the heroes of the hate crime against the Cung family – Zach Owen and Bernie Ramirez – in Midland, Texas, in June on the 38-th anniversary of the murder of Vincent Chin.

2020 Andrei Sakharov Prize Recipient



Xiaoxing Xi

Former Chair, Department of Physics
Temple University
Victim of Racial Profiling

Urgent Need to Speak Up

"The greatest dangers to liberty lurk in the insidious encroachment by men of zeal, well meaning but without understanding."

Supreme Court Associate Justice Louis Brandeis
Dissenting, *Olmstead v. United States*, 277 U.S. 438 (1928)

We have to stop the injustice of racial profiling.

We have to defend openness on university campuses.

We have to protect American competitiveness in science and technology.

Proud to be a Chinese American

Xiaoxing Xi

September 16, 2015

I was jogging on the National Mall and along Pennsylvania Avenue this morning. As the sun came out behind the iconic landmarks, my heart welled up with pride of being a Chinese American. I ran by the Washington Monument. It is the ideal that “all men are created equal” the Founding Father fought for that has attracted me and many others to become an American citizen. I passed by the Lincoln Memorial. Abraham Lincoln gave his life to preserve the Union and abolish a system that treated people differently based on their races.

Running past the Capitol Steps, my appreciation became so clear that in this country, people’s voice can be heard through a democratic process. I jogged in front of the FBI building. I commend the men and women who devote themselves to the protection of our country. In my case, however, they have used their might against an innocent citizen. What do these all mean to me? We need to get involved in the democratic process. If we see a bad policy, a bad practice, that hurt our country, we need to speak out and let our voice be heard. That we have the right to do so is what this country is so great about.

As a proud citizen, I pledge to do my part.

The Journey Continues

“America is great not because it is perfect, but because it can learn and correct itself over time.”

- Norman Y. Mineta

“We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, ...”

- Preamble to the U.S. Constitution



Thank You
Please Stay Safe and Healthy

Jeremy.S.Wu@gmail.com
www.jeremy-wu.info