

## UNDERSTANDING AND COMBATING ANTI-ASIAN RACISM

This March 16<sup>th</sup>, a mass shooting across three different SPAs in the city of Atlanta marked another episode of hatred in which eight people lost their lives, among them six were Asian women. In addition to the historical oppression of Asians and Asian-Americans in the US, recent racist remarks that associated China, Chinese, and Asian populations to the virus (i.e., Chinese virus, Chinese flu) reignited hatred toward Asian and Asian descent populations. As an initial action for support and solidarity to our staff, faculty, and students who are Asian or Asian descent, and to promote the understanding that anti-Asian racism is not something new and must be stopped, we compiled a list of resources into a document to be shared with the COE community.

### SAY THEIR NAMES

Soon Chung Park (74), Hyun Jung Grant (51), Suncha Kim (69), Yong Yue (63), Delaina Ashley Yaun (33), Paul Andre Michels (54), Xiaojie Tan (49), and Daoyou Feng (44) were killed on March 16, 2021. Twenty-one-year-old Robert Aaron Long has been charged with the crimes.

### NEWS ARTICLES

*Authorities name all eight victims in Atlanta spa shootings | Atlanta spa shootings | The Guardian* <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2021/mar/19/atlanta-spa-shootings-victims-named>

*'All I Can Think About Is Her': Families Grieve for Victims of Atlanta Attacks* <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/03/19/us/atlanta-shooting-victims-spa.html?action=click&module=Spotlight&pgtype=Homepage>

*The Atlanta Shooting and the Dehumanizing of Asian Women* <https://www.newyorker.com/news/daily-comment/the-atlanta-shooting-and-the-dehumanizing-of-asian-women>

*What You Can Do About Anti-Asian Violence: 'We Are Part of This Country,' Activists Say* [https://www.rollingstone.com/culture/culture-news/asian-american-racism-violence-1127876/?fbclid=IwAR2p\\_TvnvHTfLkLZCXkE1av4eose0UIUrrrwx8wqvTQVCCUqw6V4fytYQlw](https://www.rollingstone.com/culture/culture-news/asian-american-racism-violence-1127876/?fbclid=IwAR2p_TvnvHTfLkLZCXkE1av4eose0UIUrrrwx8wqvTQVCCUqw6V4fytYQlw)

*Asian Women Are Not a 'Temptation'* <https://gen.medium.com/asian-women-are-not-a-temptation-1025079a84e1>

*What we know about the Atlanta shootings that left 8 dead at Asian businesses* <https://www.vox.com/22335666/asian-spa-shooting-atlanta>

*A wave of violent attacks renews focus on anti-Asian racism* <https://www.vox.com/22274325/asians-racism-coronavirus-oakland-san-francisco>

*Watch Whiteness Work: A White Man Kills 6 Asian Women, and a White Cop Says He 'Had a Bad Day'* [https://www.theroot.com/watch-whiteness-work-a-white-man-kills-6-asian-women-1846496845?utm\\_source=theroot\\_newsletter&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=2021-03-18](https://www.theroot.com/watch-whiteness-work-a-white-man-kills-6-asian-women-1846496845?utm_source=theroot_newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=2021-03-18)

*The Atlanta shootings can't be divorced from racism and misogyny*

<https://www.vox.com/22336317/atlanta-georgia-shootings-racism-misogyny-targeting-asian-women>

*4 Ways To Support Asian-American Communities Right Now*

<https://www.bustle.com/wellness/how-to-support-asian-american-communities-racist-attacks>

*Yang Song And The Long History Of Targeting Asian American Sex Workers*

[https://hyphenmagazine.com/blog/2019/08/yang-song-and-long-history-targeting-asian-american-sex-workers?fbclid=IwAR3MrpR2T64CMPe18T9UEzKUyLC\\_jec4Ej\\_wLiAJ9v1YUsw25grVI-bs1U](https://hyphenmagazine.com/blog/2019/08/yang-song-and-long-history-targeting-asian-american-sex-workers?fbclid=IwAR3MrpR2T64CMPe18T9UEzKUyLC_jec4Ej_wLiAJ9v1YUsw25grVI-bs1U)

*Anti-racism resources to support Asian American, Pacific Islander community:*

<https://www.nbcnews.com/news/asian-america/anti-racism-resources-support-asian-american-pacific-islander-community-n1260467>

## **BLACK & ASIAN SOLIDARITY**

*Black Power, Yellow Peril: Towards a Politics of Afro-Asian Solidarity | by Diane Wong | Medium*

<https://medium.com/@XpertDemon/idsem-2029-black-power-yellow-peril-towards-a-politics-of-afro-asian-solidarity-3334dd26e075>

*Black and Asian-American Feminist Solidarities: A Reading List - Black Women Radicals*

<https://www.blackwomenradicals.com/blog-feed/black-and-asian-feminist-solidarities-a-reading-list>

## **ORGANIZATIONS, INITIATIVES, AND COLLECTIVE ACTION**

Stop AAPI Hate: <https://stopaapihate.org/>

Chinese for Affirmative Action: <https://caasf.org/>

Asian Pacific Policy & Planning Council: <http://www.asianpacificpolicyandplanningcouncil.org/>

Anti-Defamation League: <https://www.adl.org/news/press-releases/joint-statement-from-adl-and-committee-of-100-on-the-rise-of-anti-asian>

Asian Americans Advancing Justice: <https://www.advancingjustice-atlanta.org/mission>

Asian American Feminist Collective: <https://www.asianamfeminism.org/>

The Asian American Racial Justice Toolkit: <https://www.asianamtoolkit.org/the-toolkit>

National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum: <https://www.napawf.org/>

Red Canary Song: <https://www.redcanarysong.net/>

## **HISTORY**

A Different Asian American Timeline <https://aatimeline.com/>

The long, ugly history of Anti-Asian racism and violence in the U.S.:

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/history/2021/03/18/history-anti-asian-violence-racism/>

Anti-Asian violence has surged in the US since COVID-19. But it didn't start there:  
<https://www.today.com/news/anti-asian-violence-history-anti-asian-racism-us-t210645>

## DOCUMENTARIES

*Asian Americans*: <https://www.pbs.org/show/asian-americans/>

*Saving Face*:

<https://play.hbonow.com/feature/urn:hbo:feature:GVU2j7w3D8YNjhsJAUXq?camp=Search&play=true>

*Maya Lin: A Strong Clear Vision*: <https://vimeo.com/ondemand/mayalin>

*Call Her Ganda*: [https://www.amazon.com/Call-Her-Ganda-Naomi-Fontanos/dp/B07JGC2H6P/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?dchild=1&keywords=Call+Her+Ganda&qid=1590532983&sr=8-1](https://www.amazon.com/Call-Her-Ganda-Naomi-Fontanos/dp/B07JGC2H6P/ref=sr_1_1?dchild=1&keywords=Call+Her+Ganda&qid=1590532983&sr=8-1)

*#AsianAmCovidStories*: <https://www.documentary.org/blog/documentaries-watch-asian-and-pacific-islander-american-heritage-month>

*Finding Yingying* <https://www.findingyingying.com/>

## PODCASTS

Self Evident: <https://selfevidentshow.com/>

Race in America: Rise in Anti-Asian Violence: <https://www.washingtonpost.com/podcasts/post-live/race-in-america-rise-in-antiasian-violence/>

Mental Health Mukbang: <https://www.asianmhc.org/mentalhealthmukbang>

## WELLNESS

Asian Mental Health Collective:

<https://www.instagram.com/asianmentalhealthcollective/?hl=en>

National Asian American Pacific Islander Mental Health Association:

<https://www.naapimha.org/>

Project Lotus: <https://www.theprojectlotus.org/>

## ASIAN AND ASIAN AMERICANS IN LITERATURE (INCLUDES CHILDREN'S BOOKS)

A Literary Guide to Combat Anti-Asian Racism in America: <https://electricliterature.com/books-about-anti-asian-racism-in-america/>

The following list includes non-fiction, novels, and children's books written mostly by Asian and Asian-American Authors. These accounts support the initial understanding of the Asian and Asian descent experience and history in and outside of the US.

The difficulties during the Korea War were narrated by Sumi's grandmother in the picture book *Peacebound Trains* (Balgassi, 1996). When Sumi's birthday approached, the girl became very frustrated to realize her mother, who joined the army, would not be with her. The grandmother

saw the opportunity to tell Sumi about how she escaped from North Korean communists during the Korean War. She traced a parallel between the role of the grandfather fighting communism and protecting his family, and Sumi's mother, who was also fighting for the country.

Balgassi, H. with illustrations by C. K. Soentpiet. (1996). *Peacebound trains*. New York:

Clarion.

In *Little Cricket*, Brown (2004) told the saga of Kia Vang's family from Vietnam to the United States through the Hmong tradition of storytelling. The tradition basically preserved their extremely rich culture, since the "Hmong had no written language until 1950" (Brown, 2004).

Brown, Jackie (2004). *Little Cricket*. New York: Hyperion Books for Children.

The exposure to radiation as a result of the nuclear bombing in Hiroshima at the end of WWII was presented in *Sadako and the Thousand Paper Cranes* (Coerr, 1977). This emotional narrative unveiled the story of a girl named Sadako, who died of leukemia as a consequence of radiation from the bomb. While Sadako was in the hospital, she met Kenji, a nine-year old boy who got leukemia before he was even born. An example of extreme resilience, Sadako devoted her time to making paper cranes believing if she completed a total of 1000 paper cranes she would be healthy again. The book was based on real facts about a girl who lived in Japan between 1943 and 1955. Sadako died ten years after the United States air force dropped the atomic bomb in Hiroshima, and became a heroic figure among Japanese children (Coerr, 1977).

Coerr, E. (1977). *Sadako and the thousand paper cranes*. New York: Yearling Books.

*Memoirs of a Geisha* (Golden, 1997) presented the tradition of geishas in Japan and their role as beautiful pieces of art with the single purpose of entertaining mostly male audiences. This tradition imposed a lifestyle that deprived these women to build a family and love whoever they desire.

Golden, A. (1997). *Memoirs of a geisha: A novel*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf

In *Snow Falling on Cedars*, Japanese American fisherman, Kabuo Miyamoto was accused of a crime without evidence. The whole town accepted Kabuo was the murder of the White American fisherman Carl Heine. Despite the fact he fought in the war as an American soldier, Kabuo was prosecuted as an enemy of the country. Eventually, evidence revealed his innocence.

Gutterson, D. (1994). *Snow falling on cedars*. San Diego: Harcourt Brace.

In *Farewell to Manzanar*, Houston and Houston (1973) presented the issue of imprisonment of Japanese Americans in relocation centers during WWII. The new home of Japanese American families consisted of incomplete quarters where food was terrible and privacy was luxury. Poor sanitation, lack of infrastructure, deprivation of freedom, and the uncertainties about political and social future determined the lives of these families in imprisonment camps (Houston & Houston, 1973).

Houston, J. W., & Houston, J. D. (1973). *Farewell to Manzanar: A true story of Japanese*

*American experience during and after the World War II internment*. New York:

In **Weedflower** (2006) and **Kira-Kira** (2004), Cynthia Kadohata described respectively, the realities of imprisonment camps and the lives of Asian Americans during post war years. In **Weedflower**, staged in WWII, the character Sumiko and her family were relocated to an internment camp. The story highlighted the cooperation among imprisoned Japanese Americans and the organized social structure that emerged from this difficult situation. In **Kira-Kira**, Kadohata presented the story of the beautiful relationship between the sisters, Katie and Lynn, who were eventually separated by death. Lynn, the oldest sister, became seriously ill and eventually died. The story was contextualized in post war years when Asian Americans struggled with social perception, prejudice, and work exploitation as the norm. The workforce started to rebel, creating unions and fighting for better work conditions.

Kadohata, C. (2004). *Kira-kira*. New York: Atheneum.

Kadohata, C. (2006). *Weedflower*. New York: Atheneum.

In **Ties that Bind, Ties that Break** (Namioka, 1999), the character Aileen questioned the Chinese tradition of foot binding and eventually broke the cycle not allowing her feet to be bound. As a result, Aileen lost her family support, her arranged marriage, and social respect. Moving to the United States, the character found other alternatives for traditional female roles in society.

Namioka, L. (1999). *Ties that bind, ties that break*. New York: Random House.

In **When my Name was Keoko** (Park, 2002), concomitantly to WWII, a Korean family struggled with the harsh repression and Japanese efforts to wipe out Korean identity. The siblings Sun-hee and Tae-yul alternate the narration of their daily lives during this period. This narrative was based on historical facts experienced by the author's family members.

Park, L. S. (2002). *When my name was Keoko*. New York: Yearling.

**Driven Out: The Forgotten War Against Chinese Americans** (Pfaelzer, 2005) was a compilation of historical events and impressive photographic material presenting the turmoil of Chinese immigration to the United States in the late 1800s. Chinese suffered with extreme discrimination, racism, segregation, and public humiliation, besides violent acts of vandalism toward their property and possessions (Pfaelzer, 2005). Exploited during the construction of the Transcontinental Railroad, many Chinese died in accidents that occurred due to unsafe work conditions (Pfaelzer, 2005). As the railroad was completed, many were sent back to China involuntarily. The Chinese who insisted to stay, experienced deprivation of most basic civil and human rights (Pfaelzer, 2005). Groups of Chinese were isolated through the practice of round ups (Pfaelzer, 2005), which paved the road for the creation of what became known as Chinatowns.

Pfaelzer, Jean (2007). *Driven out: The forgotten war against Chinese Americans*. New York: Random House.

