



## *New England Chapter News*

### *Japanese American Citizens League*

June 2020

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Visit our web site: [www.nejacl.org](http://www.nejacl.org)

### **Statement of Solidarity with Black Communities**

Here is an excerpt from a statement sent to us by **Tsuru for Solidarity**. It succinctly states some of the concerns that many of us share regarding the killing of George Floyd in Minneapolis.

*As survivors and descendants of U.S. World War II concentration camps, we express our moral outrage and heartbreak over the violent enforcement of white supremacy that continues to harm Black people daily across the country.*

*Today we stand in solidarity with Black communities that are under attack due to the same racism, violence, and dehumanization that has been present in the U.S. since its founding and which led to our own community's mass incarceration and deprivation of rights. We grieve, remember and demand justice for the families and loved ones of George Floyd, 46, Minneapolis, Minnesota; Ahmaud Arbery, 25, Brunswick, Georgia; Breonna Taylor 26, Louisville, Kentucky; and many more who have been terrorized and murdered at the hands of vigilantes and law enforcement.*

*We call on Japanese Americans and our allies to take a stand against all acts of anti-Blackness every day; in ourselves, in our homes, in our places of work, and out in the world whenever we encounter it.*

For the complete statement with links to suggested readings, go to:

[https://tsuruforsolidarity.org/statement-of-solidarity-with-black-communities/?link\\_id=0&can\\_id=47321377307c703453ff3372a580a4f2&source=email-updates-from-tsuru-for-solidarity&email\\_referrer=email\\_818628&email\\_subject=updates-from-tsuru-for-solidarity](https://tsuruforsolidarity.org/statement-of-solidarity-with-black-communities/?link_id=0&can_id=47321377307c703453ff3372a580a4f2&source=email-updates-from-tsuru-for-solidarity&email_referrer=email_818628&email_subject=updates-from-tsuru-for-solidarity)

### **Institute for Asian American Studies and COVID-19**

In the Boston area, it was reassuring to read about the Institute for Asian American Studies (IAAS) at UMass Boston and the role it is taking on and off campus to help protect Asian Americans. Staff at IAAS participated in video conference calls held by the Boston Mayor's office to review data on Asian American COVID-19 cases and deaths, the availability of testing in community health centers, and to discuss how to better disseminate information on COVID-19 to English-limited Asian Communities.

We have all seen the rise in the number of racist incidents nationally against Asian Americans due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Paul Watanabe, IAAS Director, has been responding to numerous media requests to comment on these escalating acts of racism. He recently authored an opinion piece for the Boston Globe titled *Coughing while Asian* (to see

the article, go to: <https://www.bostonglobe.com/2020/04/09/opinion/coughing-while-asian/>) and has provided commentary for Channel 5, NPR and the *Boston Bulletin*. Paul is also currently serving on the Boston Mayor's COVID-19 Health Inequities Task Force and has testified at the Boston City Council's hearing to plan for an equitable recovery from the impacts of the virus. Our admiration and thanks to Paul and his staff for the important role they are playing during this stressful time.

## **Bystander Intervention Training**

Have you ever wondered what to do if you are confronted with an act of racism? With the national rise in incidents of violence and harassment against Asian and Asian Americans, AAJC (Asian Americans Advancing Justice) and Hollaback! are partnering to offer free online workshops on ***Bystander Intervention***. According to the organizers, the training will help you learn what to look for and the positive impact that bystander intervention has on individuals and communities. It will cover five strategies for intervention: distract, delegate, document, delay, and direct and how to ensure your own safety while intervening. There will be time at the end of the session to practice, and you'll leave feeling more confident intervening the next time you see anti-Asian and Asian American harassment online or in person. The training workshops are free, but prior registration is required.

### **Training dates and times:**

Wednesday, June 3, at 2 pm

Wednesday, June 10, at 4 pm

Thursday, June 18, at 7 pm

Thursday, June 25, at 4 pm

**Information and registration:** <https://www.ihollaback.org/bystanderintervention/>

## ***United Against Hate: Town Hall session on NBC***

NBC news presented a Town Hall session with Asian American legislators and activists to discuss the rise in anti-Asian racism and what it means to the community. Participating in the discussion are US Representatives Judy Chu (D-CA) and Grace Meng (D-NY), John Yang of Asian Americans Advancing Justice/AAJC, and Manju Kulkarni of A3PCON. Moderator is NBC correspondent Vicky Nguyen. To view the program, go to:

<https://www.nbcnews.com/video/united-against-hate-asian-american-legislators-and-activists-discuss-what-the-rise-in-anti-asian-racism-means-to-the-community-83427397810>

## ***Tsuru for Solidarity Virtual Pilgrimage June 6-7***

There is still time to register for this weekend's ***Tsuru for Solidarity*** virtual pilgrimage on June 6 and 7. They will bring the message of "Never Again is Now" regarding immigrant incarceration to the legislators in Washington, DC. Featured keynote speaker will be **Mazie Hirono**, U.S. Senator from Hawaii. **Carl Takei**, former NE JACL board member and currently with the ACLU, will moderate a discussion on Immigration with leaders from Detention Watch Network, La Resistencia, and The Black Alliance for Immigrant Justice. An additional panel on will include **Tom Ikeda** and **Chizu Omori** with **Nancy Ukai** on the emergence of Japanese American survivor voices in the fight to end child detention and the

meaning of solidarity in this time. Additional personalities include **Janice Mirikitani**, activist and poet; **Kishi Bashi**, violinist; **Grateful Crane Youth Singers**; **Ty Defoe**, artist and activist, and **FandangObon**. The program is free to all, but pre-registration is requested.

For updated program information and to register, go to:

<https://tsuruforsolidarity.org/tsururising/?eType=EmailBlastContent&eld=48605083-5b65-4660-8b5e-36d9d2baea91>

### **What shall I do with all the tsuru I've folded?**

In response to questions we've received about what to do with the tsuru we've already folded, the only information I've received is we should keep folding, take a picture of our work, share it on social media, and send the photo and tsuru count to Tsuru for Solidarity. The photos will be used in a video. We have surpassed the initial goal of 125,000 (to represent the number of Japanese incarcerated during WWII) and, as of May 3, a **total of 213,277 tsuru were folded!** Tsuru for Solidarity is urging us to continue folding to reach a new goal to include the 400,000 immigrants incarcerated annually. That added to our initial target brings our **new goal to 525,000 tsuru**. For more information and to see photos sent in by others from across the country go to: <https://tsuruforsolidarity.org/tsuru-resources/>

### ***Tadaima!* Community Virtual Pilgrimage June 13-Aug. 16**

In an effort to provide an overview of many of the annual pilgrimages to the WWII American incarceration sites that would normally take place, the Japanese American Memorial Pilgrimages (JAMP) is hosting virtual pilgrimages on its website from June 13 to August 16. The JAMP organizing team is made up of visual artists committed to memorializing the history of Japanese Americans. They plan to bring together representatives from different parts of the JA community as well as scholars, artists and educators. To learn more: <https://www.jampilgrimages.com/>

### **Virtual Exhibit: *Reclaiming Asian Identity Through Story***

Boston area Asian Americans are invited to submit work for a virtual online exhibition called *New Narratives: Reclaiming Asian Identity Through Story*. **Deadline for submission is June 22.** The program is presented by Unbound Visual Arts, a non-profit organization serving the Greater Boston area with educational exhibitions and programs for cultural enhancement. This exhibit will explore notions of Asian identity within the US through the sharing of visual stories and other creative expressions of identity and will be available online from July 5 to September 8, 2020. For more information:

<https://www.unboundvisualarts.org/new-narratives-reclaiming-asian-identity-through-story-call/>

### ***The Immigrant Story* – a virtual fireside chat**

UMass Boston's Center for Women in Politics and Public Policy (CWPPP) is hosting a virtual fireside chat on the immigrant story. CWPPP is a program that aims to build bridges between generations of women in public leadership, with particular emphasis on advancing leadership among women of color. Their theme this year is "Community, Women's Leadership and the Immigrant Story." Participating from the Asian American community is Lydia Lowe, director of the Chinatown Community Land Trust in Boston. The interactive, online program will be

held **Thursday, June 4 at 5:30 pm**. Pre-registration is necessary to participate. Information and registration:

[https://umassboston.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJAvfuurTwsHN0T0kNLQi7FBNSPy7ipVZei?utm\\_source=Fellows+Immigrant+Story+Event&utm\\_campaign=Fellows+%22Immigrant+Story%22+Event&utm\\_medium=email](https://umassboston.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJAvfuurTwsHN0T0kNLQi7FBNSPy7ipVZei?utm_source=Fellows+Immigrant+Story+Event&utm_campaign=Fellows+%22Immigrant+Story%22+Event&utm_medium=email)

## **APAMC's report card for major TV networks**

The Asian Pacific Media Coalition (APAMC), issued its TV Network Report Card for the 2018-19 season. It might be handy right now since we are all probably watching more TV than normal. APAMC has been issuing these report cards since 2001 to assessing the major networks on their progress toward diversity and inclusion of Asian Pacific Americans onscreen and behind the camera. ABC scored a solid B, followed by CBS with a B-. Third ranking CBS earned a C and Fox garnered a C-, up from the previous year's F. To see the full report, go to: <https://advancingjustice-aaajc.org/sites/default/files/2020-05/5.5.2020%20APAMC%202018-19%20Network%20Report%20Card.pdf>