OCCA NEWS



#### OCCA NEWSLETTER March 31, 2021

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Thank you to State Senator James Skoufis, State Senator John C. Liu, Assemblymember Jon Jacobson, all local community leaders and public officials, and to all the organizers for giving us an opportunity to be together, stand together, and understand each other.

#### Ladies and Gentlemen,

We are saddened by the escalating violence and raciallymotivated murders occurring within the United States. In particular, we want to address and call attention to the 3,800 hate incidents targeting Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (AAPI) that have been reported from coast to coast since March 2020. When I saw an 84-yearold man violently shoved to the ground and dead two days later, my heart was broken and I was so outraged! Enough is enough!

We condemn the horrific acts of hate and violence. We mourn the loss of life and grieve with the families that have been broken by this widespread racism, prejudice, and bigotry hate crimes.

We acknowledge that Anti-Asian racism is not new. In fact, we are today in 2021 still having conversations we were having in 1881. It's infuriating, scary and disappointing at the same time. I challenge myself and my community to recognize the painful history of anti-Asian racism, to learn and understand the experience of AAPI individuals, and to use the courage and privilege we have to stand up to bigotry. We cannot allow racism to go unchecked. We cannot afford to stay silent, both for ourselves and generations to come. Be brave. Be loud. Say no to hate.



**OCCA members from L to R:** Andy Chen, Mr. Zhang, Jimmy Cheung, Gary Zhang, Guiying Zhang, Pin Shi, Jenny Zhang, Kangjian Wu, and Mr. Pak Leung.

#### "Stop Asian Hate" Rally

by Andy Chen

On Wednesday, March 24th, 2021 at 12:00 noon, an Anti-Asian Hate rally was organized by the Office of State Senator James Skoufis and held in front of the Senator's District Office in Newburgh, New York in support of and to protect AAPI communities from hate and bias attacks. The press was invited. The following people made speeches to stop Asian hate and condemn all manifestations of expressions of anti-Asian, discrimination, racism, xenophobia, and scapegoating:

- State Senator James Skoufis
- State Senator John C. Liu
- Assemblymember Jon Jacobson
- Kangjian Wu, President of Orange County Chinese Association (OCCA)
- Christine Wang, Beacon City resident
- Anthony Tseng, Beacon City School District Board member
- **Rachel Rubenstein**, Executive Director of the Jewish Federation of Greater Orange County, New York
- Ray Harvey, President of the Newburgh-Highland Falls NAACP Chapter
- Torrance Harvey, Mayor of the City of Newburgh

OCCA members Pak Leung, Gary Zhang, Jimmy Cheung, Pin Shi, Guiying Zhang, and Jenny Zhang also attended this rally along with approximately 50 other local residents and delivered their "Stop Asian Hate" voices.

#### 《纽约州参议员 James Skoufis 带头呼吁 "停止仇恨亚裔 (Stop Asian Hate)"》 by 江岚

从 2019 年至 2020 年,当美国的仇恨犯罪率总 体下降 7%,针对亚裔族群的同类犯罪却增加了 150%,引起亚裔及其他族裔民众的密切关注。3 月 16日,亚特兰大枪击案发生,8名遇害人中,6名是 亚裔妇女。犯罪嫌疑人与受害者没有私人恩怨冲突, 犯案诱因仅仅出于对族裔、宗教、性别等的观念性仇 视、歧视。然而当地警方罔顾案发经过的明确显示, 第一时间的发言却以轻描淡写的语言公开为犯罪嫌疑 人遮掩,直接点燃了各地反亚裔歧视的抗议活动。

3月24日,纽约橙郡华人协会(OCCA)会员在 现任会长吴康健先生的带领下,应邀参加纽约州参议 员 James Skoufis 牵头举办的"停止仇恨亚裔(Stop AAPI Hate)"公众集会。集会在位于纽约上州纽堡市 的 Skoufis 参议员办公室门前举行。纽堡市市长 Harvey、纽约州华裔参议员刘醇逸、纽约州政府众议 员 Jacobson 等多位政府官员亲临现场,与当地居 民、华裔、犹太裔及其他少数族裔团体的代表们一 起,在集会上同声呼吁反歧视反暴力,要求依法制裁 种族仇恨犯罪。

"我声援亚裔美国人社区," Skoufis 参议员在发言 中说。"我呼吁我们整个地区的民众不仅强烈谴责他 们看到的,任何针对亚裔歧视的言行,同时更要向我 们的亚裔邻居、企业主提供额外的支持。我们都可以 做得更好,我们必须并肩站在一起,努力结束这种令 人不安的,更令人无法接受的现实。"

纽约州政府众议员 Jacobson 等其他几位政府官员,纽约橙郡华人协会(OCCA)吴康健会长等几位少数族裔社区代表,以及当地居民代表,也相继发言,重申反对种族歧视的坚定立场。整场集会,是遍及全美的亚裔抗议运动的一个缩影。自 1982 年华裔青年陈果仁(Vincent Chin)遇害所引发的全美抗议运动之后,美国亚裔社区再度大规模争取自身合法权益的此次示威活动,影响延伸到加拿大各地。

北美社会对亚裔族群的歧视、仇恨由来已久,是 一个一直存在的社会隐疾,更是顽疾。1882年的 《排华法案》是美国历史上唯一仅针对特定种族群体 的移民限制,到 1943年才被废止,其恶劣影响包括 直接导致了塔科马/西雅图中国移民驱逐运动,长达 十年之久(1885-86年),大规模驱逐任何敢于试图 居留该地区的移民。对来自亚洲的移民及其后裔的敌 意不仅限于美籍华人。加州于 1913年通过立法,禁 止日本移民拥有土地。1923年,联邦立法禁止所有 "无资格获得公民身份的外国人入境",实际上将《排 华法案》的实施对象扩大到了来自日本、韩国和南亚



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3 月 24 日, 纽约橙郡华人协会 OCCA 9 位会员参加了纽约州参议员 James Skoufis 牵头举办的 "停止对美亚裔仇恨" 集会。集会在位于纽约上州纽堡市其参 议员办公室门前举行。纽约州参议员刘 醇逸, 众议员 Jacobson, 纽堡市市长 Harvey 等地方政要, 以及其他族裔团体 代表, 居民参加这次集会… OCCA 还收 到了因白天上班, 无法参与这次聚会的 许多会员朋友们的来电, 均表示对这次 活动的支持。

的移民。第二次世界大战期间,美国联邦政 府通过第9066号行政命令,将大约12万名 日裔美国人(其中三分之二在美国出生)关 押在拘留营中,并没收了他们的财产,公然 废除正当法律程序和民权保障。

此后一百余年,北美社会每一次遭遇经 济危机、社会危机或政治危机、大众媒体都 没有停止过向亚裔泼脏水。新冠疫情爆发以 来,美国联邦高级官员公开称 COVID-19 为 "中国病毒"或"武汉流感",这种毫无根据, 不负责任的诋毁,俨然是一百二十一年前的 旧金山袭击事件的翻版。当时的华人社区成 员被指责为疫情爆发的源头,被没收财产、 毁坏房屋、一个多世纪以后的今天、亚裔群 体还是恶意的、暴力的种族偏见的攻击对 象。我们并没有超越历史。当韩裔、日裔、 菲裔、印第安原住民等等,只要是非欧洲血 统的人都有可能被仇恨攻击,没有一个单一 亚裔群体的生存境况能够大概率地、掩耳盗 铃地安稳下去。亚特兰大惨案以及一年来针 对亚裔仇恨犯罪率的急剧攀升, 是给长期温 和沉默的所谓"模范"少数族裔敲响的警钟, 亚裔各族群必须增强命运共同体意识、同舟 共济。国际局势或许不是我们所能够置喙, 政坛或许不是我们当中大多数人关注的重 点,但我们反歧视,不仅是无法忽视受害者 的痛楚及对亚裔群体潜在的生命威胁,更因 为无论什么肤色、无论出于什么理由、对他 人任意实施暴力、歧视的人都必须得到法律 的公正制裁。我们反歧视,也并非反对某个 族裔对亚裔的袭击, 而是反对所有因种族出 身而对特定群体的敌意与系统性歧视。

这场反暴力、反歧视、争平等的抗议运 动还在持续。



### OCCS Online Class Photos (March 13, 2021)



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