



Pia Bhatia <pb919@georgetown.edu>

# Fwd: MSSC E-News | Students Adjusting to a New Reality, Imagine if it was 1979? | MSSC Online Events

1 message

**Karen Mani** <karenmani@gwmail.gwu.edu>  
To: "pb919@georgetown.edu" <pb919@georgetown.edu>

Thu, Apr 2, 2020 at 11:20 PM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **GW-Multi Cultural Student Services Center** <mssc@gwu.edu>  
Date: Tue, Mar 31, 2020 at 11:47 AM  
Subject: MSSC E-News | Students Adjusting to a New Reality, Imagine if it was 1979? | MSSC Online Events  
To: <karenmani@gwu.edu>

The Community Edition | Mar 14, 2020



## Multicultural Student Services Center

Seek the "Inner Light" of good in others.

**Dear Karen Mani,**

Good Morning! We hope all is well with you, your family, and your friends. We hope that you have adjusted and adapted to this significant change in our lives. We have faced national challenges like this before, and while 9-11 comes to mind, the 1979 Oil Crisis had the same kind of immediate, daily, nationwide impact on us that COVID 19 does. The consequences were less menacing, however, imagine if, like food and supplies, people

hoarded gasoline, kerosene, natural gas, heating oil, and other products of the petrochemical industry. Imagine people siphoning gas from their neighbors' cars in the dark of night. Gas stations frequently ran out of gas, people woke up at the crack of dawn to get in lines that wrapped around two or more city blocks, and the odd-even last license plate number policy determined access to fuel across the country. The last number on your license plate decided what day of the week you were allowed to fill up. Even plates on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, etc. Imagine if your tank ran low at 8 pm on a Monday night after the stations closed, and you had many miles to go.

Initially, the people struggled. Cutting in line inspired fistfights. Stations ran out of fuel while long lines of cars waited, inspiring riots. These were tough times that impacted every aspect of our every day. However, after we accepted our reality, a renewed spirit arose among the people. When people ran out of gas while waiting in line, crowds of people would push a 5000-pound car up the street to ensure that the system would continue to work, fairly, for everyone. Trust grew among the people. Random acts of kindness occurred. Shared humanity became the common order of the day. This change in our actions demonstrates the value of a common purpose.

We are our best as a nation, or as micro-communities within, when our system of principles and shared values guide us. We are at our weakest as a nation when we engage in or refuse to challenge behaviors that devalue others based on identity. Scroll down to read a great NPR article on the growth of inappropriate behavior directed to Asian folk. It will remind you of, fill in the blank.

I am reminded of this poem, and, respectfully, experimented with what it might look like, and read like, if the identities were not defined. Please accept my apology in advance, it is not my intent to offend anyone, looking at this poem in this manner inspired me to reflect and grow stronger.

First they came for the \_\_\_\_\_, and I did not speak out—  
 Because I was not a \_\_\_\_\_.  
 Then they came for the \_\_\_\_\_, and I did not speak out—  
 Because I was not a \_\_\_\_\_.  
 Then they came for the \_\_\_\_\_, and I did not speak out—  
 Because I was not a \_\_\_\_\_.  
 Then they came for me ...  
 and there was no one left to speak for me.

We could practice speaking out in a manner that brings people in, as opposed to pushing them further out. Challenge firmly, then wrap an arm around their shoulder (philosophically and virtually, of course).

See the schedule below for opportunities to catch up. We have a ZOOM account that allows up to 100 people to connect without the 40 minute time restriction. We would be happy to support virtual student community meetings, social gatherings, Kahoot, Jeopardy, and other group activities. Reach out to [gwumssc@gmail.com](mailto:gwumssc@gmail.com), and we will get back to you asap.

Wishing you all the very best. We miss you like crazy....

The MSSC Fam-i-ly!



## Links to MSSC Live Events

Tuesday 3/31:

[Undergrad Check In](#) - Noon | [LGBTQIA Jeopardy](#) - 7 pm |

Wednesday 4/1:

[Undergrad Check In](#) - Noon | [Grad Student Open Dialogue](#) 1 pm

Thursday 4/2:

[Undergrad Check In](#) - Noon | [Quaker Jeopardy](#) - 4 pm | [Interfaith Jeopardy](#)  
- 7 pm

Friday 4/3:

[Undergrad Check In](#) - Noon |

## New Site Collects Reports Of Racism Against Asian Americans Amid Coronavirus Pandemic

(borrowed from NPR)

Steve Mullis | Heidi Glenn

As the coronavirus spreads and disrupts life across the country, Chinese Americans and other Asian Americans are facing a secondary threat: racism.

The virus was first detected in Wuhan, China, and some now blame the country for its global spread. In recent weeks, blame has escalated into reports of harassment and even assault in places with large communities of Asian Americans. [\(read more\)](#)...

Last week Russell Jeung, a professor of Asian American Studies at San Francisco State University, started tracking these attacks on a new website he helped launch called **Stop AAPI Hate**. In the site's first eight days, it received more than **650 reports** of discrimination — largely against the Asian American community.

## Counseling Center

Speaking with a counselor-consultant can help provide insight, solutions, and information about resources on and off campus. For further information or questions [please visit our website](#) or contact Community Counseling and Psychological Services.

[counsel@gwu.edu](mailto:counsel@gwu.edu).



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Sent by [mssc@gwu.edu](mailto:mssc@gwu.edu) in collaboration with



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Best,  
Karen Mani  
*The George Washington University  
B.A. Computer Science, 2021*