

# NEWSLETTER

*Fairfield Equity Coalition's Weekly Newsletter*



*Fairfield Equity Coalition is a youth-led organization taking local action to reimagine Fairfield's definition of what constitutes a comprehensive education. Our goal is to push for equitable policy and curriculum changes within Fairfield Public Schools while raising awareness on injustices against marginalized populations within our community.*

Welcome to our **thirty-third** newsletter! As a community newsletter, we encourage our readership to reach out with suggested items. Thank you for your continued interest in our coalition!

## COALITION UPDATE

*Content warning: Anti-Asian Violence.* Early last week, 8 innocent lives were lost over the course of three deadly shootings in Atlanta-area spas; 6 of the victims were Asian women. Anti-Asian racism and violence is not a new phenomena in our nation's history. The uptick in harassment, violence - and now, murder - against Asian Americans is partially attributable to the racist and xenophobic rhetoric spewed by our former president and the Republican Party - reigniting hatred long held in this country towards our Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) communities.

FEC strongly rejects and condemns racist acts of any kind toward any group of people. These recent Anti-Asian attacks remind us that the work of anti-racism and decolonization *require* active unlearning of the unconscious language and bias that can evolve into stronger forms of hate and violence if left unchecked. For resources and ways to support the victims' families, see the next page of our newsletter.

We honor the victims of this tragedy and their loved ones today. We have chosen to omit their names out of respect for some families who asked for privacy in their time of grief.

This week, continue to check out our Instagram series on promoting school-life balance and highlighting prominent celebrities focused on activism. FEC submitted public testimony to the CT Education Committee in partial support of SB 1034 *An Act Concerning Minority Recruitment and Retention*. Read here.

### IN THIS ISSUE

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WHERE WE ARE GOING**

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### LOCAL HAPPENINGS

- Sunday, March 28, 4:30 PM - 5:30 PM via Zoom: "An Afternoon with Filmmaker Debra Robinson" free online event hosted by the [Ivoryton Library \(Essex\)](#). Learn of Ms. Robinson's work as a Black filmmaker and author and how she uplifts her community through art. Register [here](#). Further details [here](#).
- Saturday, April 3rd, 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM: "The Strength of Black Women: A Look at Life, Love, and Liberation from the Labels" virtual event hosted by the [Copper Beech Institute](#). Learn about the "role" of Black women through history and how these preconceptions can both empower and limit the individual. Registration required. Minimum \$20 fee. Details [here](#).

### ACTION ITEM *a way to make a difference today*

As we mentioned above, horrible tragedies like the mass shooting in Atlanta last week are stark reminders of the racism that is deeply woven into the fabric of our nation. Calls-to-action across the country from various AAPI support groups fall into two important categories: we must (1) actively unlearn our own racial biases and prejudices while understanding the larger historical and present day contexts of Anti-Asian racism in the United States and (2) show our support for the victims these racist acts. We encourage you to follow this [link](#) to a support page compiled by [Red Canary Song](#) for several ways to support the families and survivors of the Atlanta shooting. For reading materials and other learning devices, see below.

### THIS WEEK WE'RE...

*Watching* "[Karen Chee Addresses the Atlanta Shooting](#)" by [Karen Chee](#) for [Late Night With Seth Meyers](#). In this video clip, Chee discusses how the shootings in Atlanta this past week are prime examples of the rise in hate crimes against Asian Americans in recent months and why Donald Trump's hateful rhetoric is only part of the "centuries-old racism" that has led to this tragic moment. Chee provides organizations to support, thinkers and activists to follow, and further ways to help. We hope this video provides a powerful and brief overview of this historical and systemic problem and ways you can learn more. If you are interested in additional materials related to what Chee talks about in this video, you can visit STOP AAPI HATE's website for [Reports](#) and [News](#).

### GET INVOLVED

We are always seeking new members and leaders! If you are a current student or alumni of FPS and are interested in further involvement, please [fill out this survey](#). If you are a teacher, administrator, parent, or Fairfield resident, please email us at [fairfeldequitycoalition@gmail.com](mailto:fairfeldequitycoalition@gmail.com) to get involved.

## FOLLOW US!

