

From the Editor

This is how a white nationalist president works. Like his predecessor, Herbert Hoover, he blames his failures on a scapegoat or distracts from his frequent blunders and gaffes by inviting his Trump Shirts to attack members of racial and religious minorities, Jews, Muslims, and others. Herbert Hoover blamed his depression on Mexican Americans, As a result, thousands of Mexican- American citizens were deported. Now he's using the term, "Chinese Virus" to distract from his administration's inaction in dealing with the plague. Since Americans view all Asian-Americans as the same, an attitude that's encouraged by some of our leading white opinion-makers, people who have degrees from our most prestigious schools, Americans, whether they be of Chinese heritage ,or not are being attacked by the president's Trump Shirts, who roam the streets looking for people to beat up. One of them attacked a friend of ours in New York a distinguished filmmaker. She's a Japanese- American. He fractured her finger. This is what happens when white nationalists and their followers, who voted out of hate, rule. Whether it be the ones who brought about The Civil War or Hitler's Germany. Millions die.

Contributors

Among Lamont Steptoe's books are "Meditations in 'Congo Square'" and "Uncle's South China Sea Blue Nightmare." In 2005, he received the American Book Award.

Robert Townsend is a filmmaker, actor, comedian and writer who talks about his experiences in Hollywood. He's one of the few Black actors who, with his film, "The Hollywood Shuffle," controlled his product.

Yuri Kageyama is a poet, playwright and journalist. Her poetry was first published by Ishmael Reed, while she was a student at the University of California, Berkeley, and again in 2011, with her collection of short fiction and poetry, "The New and Selected Yuri: Writing From Peeling Till Now." She gives us an update on the Fukushima disaster.

Based, in Berkeley, California, Elizabeth Cowan is a writer, mother, and educator currently living in Rome, Italy. She is completing a book on parenting, community, and race, investigating from afar the most glorious and corrosive intimacies of American culture.

Professor Yuqing Lin teaches at a Beijing university. Her translation of "Mumbo Jumbo" was published in 2019 by Yanshan Press of Uni-wisdom Media. She gives us a report on how China is handling the Coronavirus calamity through her personal, daily life experiences.

Shira A. Scheindlin is a retired United States District Judge of the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York. Since Stop-and-Frisk policies are in the news again, we reprint her acceptance speech, sent to PEN Oakland when she accepted the Adelle Foley Award.

We print another excerpt from Karla Brundage's brilliant novel, "Nia Moves to KweKwe." An accomplished poet and novelist, we published Karla Brundage's first poetry collection, "Swallowing Watermelons."

My poem, "I Am Not the Walrus," is timely. My newest book of poetry, "Why the Black Hole Sings the Blues," will be officially published by Dalkey Archive Press on March 24, 2020.

Fresno, California, based visual artist Evany Zirul's cartoon tells our readers all they need to know about our politics.

Barbara Lowenstein is a photographer and famed literary agent. Through her photos, she shows us how spoiled and pampered we are. What we regard as a crisis is just another day in many countries.

IR