



PHOTO | DREW MUMICH

Police officers from the NYPD were at the front of the Chinese New Year parade through Chinatown in New York City on February 25, 2018.

By Dew Mumich & Maria Ramos
Senior Reporters



Chinese New Year celebration showed



PHOTO | DREW MUMICH

Parade goers at the Chinese New Year celebration in New York City threw glittery confetti to cheer on those marching in the parade.

culture.

Some participants were handing out *hóngbāo*, which is a little red bag filled with money, as a means of wishing the receivers good luck, prosperity and wellbeing for the year.

Onlookers stood in awe underneath their umbrellas, with laughter and cheers as the parade passed by. The participants in the parade would shoot off confetti cannons, raining glittering confetti at every moment on every bystander they could.

Some stood fast, as the rain was on and off, more took shelter under any roof they could find climbing on ledges of buildings, clinging to the wall avoiding to get soaked.

Others watched from their apartments, windows adorned with Chinese talismans.

Despite the rain, women dressed in glittering garments of yellow and red danced through the puddle-lined streets. The men were dressed in costumes of dragons with bright yellow manes, gold, green and silver scales and as the most predominant color, red.

Dragons were com-

mon sights, as they are symbols of good luck and protection in traditional Chinese culture. Large red dogs made of plastic were also being carried by celebrants to welcome in the New Year of The Dog.

Bangladesh native Subarna Dey, who came out to see the event, said: "I was more interested in the dragon dance, and that was very fast, and I loved it, and it is very colorful, and very similar to our culture."

Throughout the parade many onlookers had gotten confetti cannons, whether they had been thrown to them by paraders or purchased from the local shops for a few dollars. As adults and children alike gathered in the square to fire them, the air was filled with the sparkle of white, blue and green confetti in a display that was fun for all ages.

Onlooker Mark Wergan described all the music, motion and color as "fantastical."

Good luck charms known as mystic knots hung from street lights as another reminder to welcome the new year with good fortune

With the new year rolling in, it isn't hard to see why there are so many good luck

charms in a few But in addition tivi ties, an politics was evic clear support for Chinatown, wit calling out to pa know you are u Washington, bu back!"

Many streets were wav flag alongside one to show soli nese immigrants

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Chines are the second grant population according to th States Census. an increasingly to see a Chinato cities across the New York City San Francisco an But the



PHOTO | DREW MUMICH



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ABOVE: Umbrellas were the accessory of choice for this year's Chinese New Year parade through Chinatown in New York City on February 25, 2018. LEFT: National flags demonstrating connection to both China and the US at the parade were held by many onlookers.

and cultural solidarity in challenging times

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and Los Angeles.
the new political

regime in Washington and the President's antagonistic rhetoric toward China is having an impact. For example, as Lishan Wu, a Mercer student and Chinese immigrant said, "We used to think American government policy is nice to Chinese to immigrant, we don't feel comfortable, and in this case, if I am in China and I haven't immigrated to America, I won't consider."

Hate crimes against Asian-Americans do not get a lot of coverage by the media even in places where the numbers are high. A report from the Los Angeles County Commission on Human Relations found that crimes targeting Asian-Americans tripled in that county between 2014 and 2015.

An NPR report by Jenny J. Chen published on February 17 noted that many Chinese immigrant women don't speak up when they are victims of a hate crime, due to the sensitivity of the hate crimes, making them more vulnerable targets. So statistics on these crimes are likely under inflated.

At this year's parade political sentiment was evident in things like the presence of a Chinese American LGBTQ group, with a long rainbow-colored fabric showing their support and signs in both English and Chinese saying, "We honor our families."

The Asian-Americans Advancing Justice non-profit organization created a new website to document the cases of hate against this population. The website standagainsthatred.org encourages them to tell their stories in order to create more awareness and make them feel comfortable.

A major development in China in the last week is the removal of term limits for the country's president Xi Jinping which has been met with alarm by activist groups who fear a power grab that will propel the country back toward the era of Mao. But despite all this as the backdrop the Chinese community still banded together to celebrate the culture and traditions of their heritage using this unity as one way to face political crises in the Year of The Dog.



PHOTO | DREW MUMICH

Dragon performers at this years Chinese New Year celebration in New York City had to work to keep the ornate costumes from getting wet during the dances.

TWO YEARS OF PO

By Derw Mumich
Senior Reporter

PROTESTS 2017

Largest nationwide protests of 2017 from Countlove.org

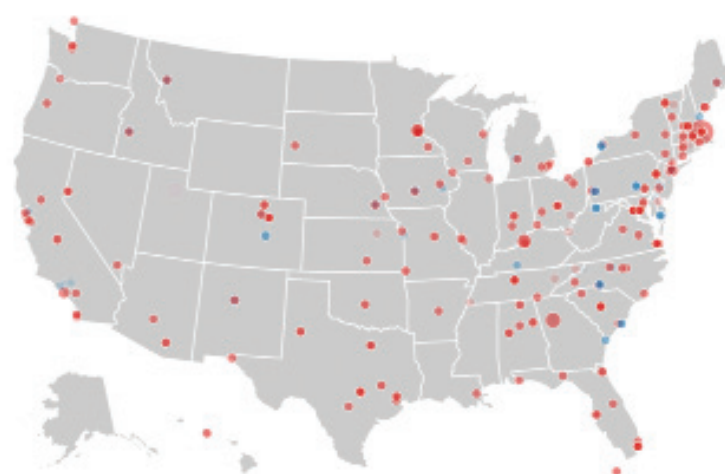
Women's March 2017



Women's March 2018, New York City joining 3 million men, women and children nation wide.



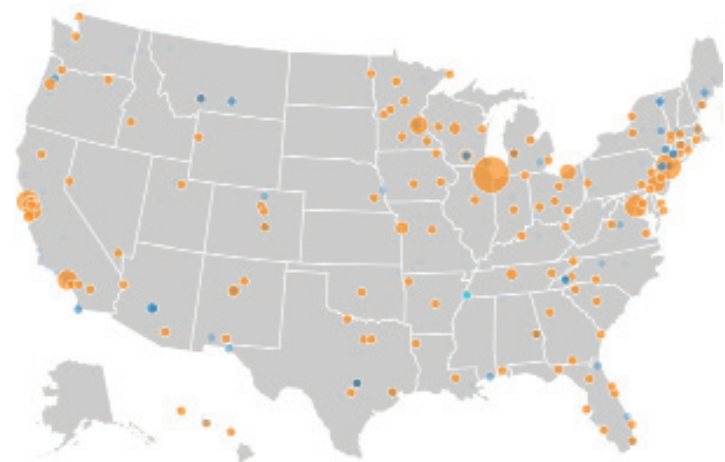
New York City Police monitoring barricades for



Travel Ban, 2017



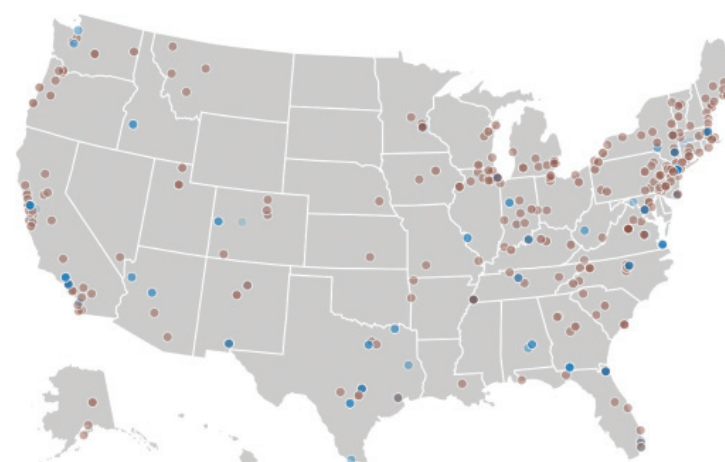
Women's March, 2018



March For Science, 2017



Women's March, 2017



Protesting Charlottesville, 2017

From the Boston Tea Party, to the Whiskey Rebellion to the wars in Vietnam and Iraq, vocalizing disagreement has been a part of American history. But in the Trump era we are at a frequency previously unseen. The question now is: Why? Is it the voter turnout? And, secondarily, to what extent is it

Throughout 2017 there were an estimated 11,149 protestors, according to Crowd Sourcing Consortium. The number of protests at 11,149.

Reporter LA Kauffman said in an opinion article, “This was not a Golden Age of Protest,” “this is certainly not the most protested period in the US. Even when you adjust for population, the percentage that took to the streets during the height of the 1960s was less than in the 1950s and 1970.”

Maggie Carroll, a Liberal Arts major at Merced for gun laws and marches for Black Lives Matter, and me to become involved myself. Seeing so many marches, it was a really good feeling."

Kauffman explains that “6,000 local resistance groups are active in the U.S. Indivisible, the advocacy protest group founded by me, is one of the largest. In fact, all, of these groups, are consistently active.”

He continues, "This alone represents a break in precedent in American history. Many of these groups are active in their areas, hoping that this wave of street action will carry over into the November 2018 midterm elections."

A Pew Research Center article titled “Activism in these activities varies by age: Americans ages 18 up to have recently changed their profile picture more (33 percent), looked for information on social media more (25 percent), or used hashtags related to a political issue more (23 percent) than older Americans” (2017) found that 33 percent of Americans ages 18 to 29 have recently changed their profile picture, compared to 25 percent of those ages 30 to 49, 13 percent of those ages 50 to 64, and 10 percent of those ages 65 and older.

The Pew study does not break down or separate the types of behavior. The vast majority of the organizing in the weeks after the Parkland school shooting, teenagers took part in the March for Our Lives..

However, as Sociology Professor Dana R. Fisher says, the March for Our Lives crowd was not primarily made up of young participants. The average age of the protesters was 21. Fisher continues to say, "Participants were also mostly white. They were mostly first-time protesters. About 27 percent of participants had protested before."

With hashtags like #Metoo, #Blacklivesmatter, and #MeToo, which have been used millions of times on Twitter, it has become easier to spread the message. Social media has helped organizers to spread awareness and mobilize people. This begs the question: does protesting affect political participation?

"Yes," Tommy Leung, a co-founder of Council for a New Republic, says to some degree. I think that, certainly, historically, there is a need to see if protests make a difference...it's very hard to say. He went on to say "In order to make a difference, you need change who sets the policy. And that means voting."

A VOICE survey of 50 Mercer students showed that 58 percent of students would vote for Clinton compared to the 58 percent who said that they would vote for Clinton. Compare this to the national average of 48 percent. Considering 2018 is a midterm and not a primary election, so Mercer would seem to mirror the national trend.

As Professor DeRosa, a political science professor at the University of Illinois at Chicago, says, “People don’t consider [voting] as important as they should. They don’t register and vote.”

The effect the past two years of street protests coming midterm election is yet to be seen, but on

POLITICAL PROTEST



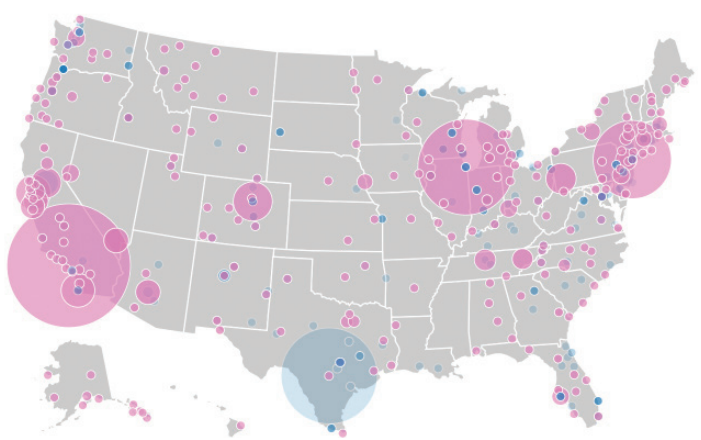
for crowd control during the March for Our Lives.



Student walkouts held outside of Hightstown High School, NJ after the Parkland Shootings.

PROTESTS 2018

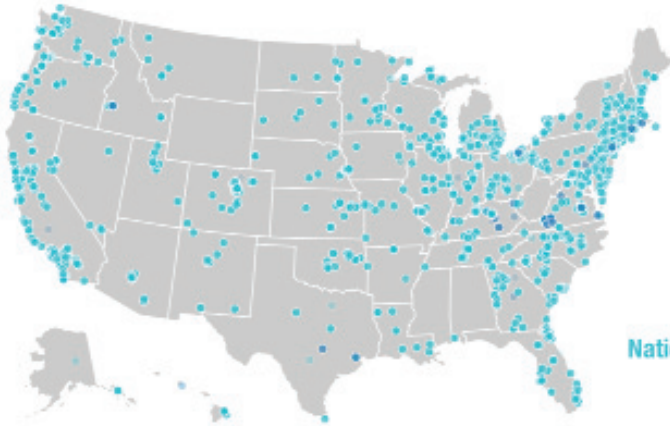
Largest nationwide protests of 2018 from Countlove.org



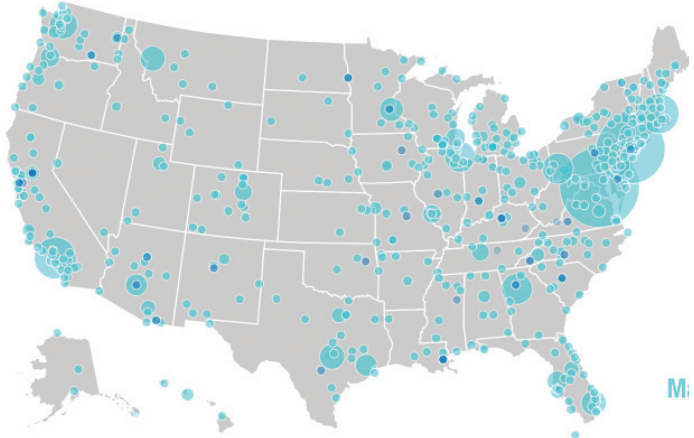
Women’s March 2018



Lambertville and New Hope , NJ Indivisible Rally against the separation of families, July of 2018



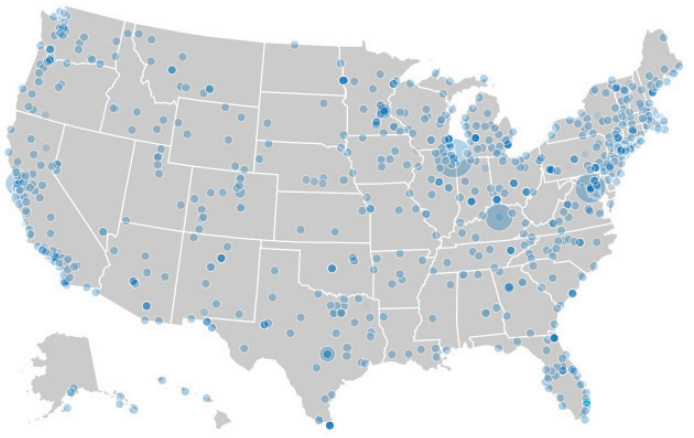
National School Walkout Day, Feb. 2018



March for our Lives, 2018



March for Our Lives



Rallies to reunite families, 2018

llion, to the struggle for civil rights, and opposition agreement with the government has been a theme re seeing something new, protests on a scale and now is: will the rallies have an impact on policy or is youth participation propelling the movement? ed 8,700 protests, and an estimated 5.9-9 million rtium. The website Countlove.org puts the number

n article for The Guardian entitled “We are Living nly more people in absolute terms than have ever ust for population growth, it’s probably a higher eight of the Vietnam anti-war movement in 1969

rcer, told the VOICE, “I remember seeing marches y, and when people my age go to them, it motivates ny people from the younger generations at the

stance groups have united with affiliations with y by two former congressional staffers. Most, if not

readth and depth of organizing with little, if any, groups are digging into grassroots electoral work ions will translate into a decisive blue wave in the

ivism in the Social Media Age” states, “Engagement s 18 to 49 are more likely than those ages 50 and re to show support for a cause (23 percent vs. 13 a about rallies or protests in their area (24 percent litical or social issue (20 percent vs. 8 percent).” eparate the millennials and the Gen Xers in terms in the past two years has been lead by adults, but ook a much more visible role specifically leading

Fishe wrote for The Washington Post, “The D.C. ade up of teenagers. Only about 10 percent of the e adults in the crowd was just under 49 years old.” so more likely than those at recent marches to articipants at the March for Our Lives had never

atter, and #Neveragain being used more than 30 spread activist messages across the nation. Social ess about major issues.

olitics?

untlove.org tells the VOICE. “The protests help to y, there is some evidence to suggest that we don’t ry obvious they are not enough alone.”

nce you have to change policy, and you have to ing.”

ows 42 percent were registered and intend to vote, ere not registered and did not intend to do so. ent of millennials who voted in the 2016 election. ry election year, these numbers are expected to go onal averages.

rofessor at Mercer explains, “I just think younger ey should...They would be the key to this election,

tests will have on voting choices and turn out this on Election Day, November 6, we will find out.