

Up To Speed Live
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>> DIANA ALVEAR: Hello I'm Diana Alvear thank you so much for joining me today on Up to Speed Live.

It is Friday.

Yet again another week that was packed with news and events and we're going to go through it all including we have a very special guest today who will join us live to talk about the significance of today.

Today is the Stop Asian Hate Virtual Day of Action and Healing and we're going to talk about all of that.

And ways that you can be involved.

But first we do need to start with the weather.

Most importantly in Alabama and Georgia we have so many people that were affected by monster tornadoes we were all monitoring it last night and our hearts go out to the folks who are affected out there both our customers and our V Teamer community if you're living in one of those impacted areas just know our thoughts and our hearts are with you and our network teams are on the ground making sure of the damage and making sure everyone stays connected so we wanted to start there and acknowledge what happened last night so now we'll turn to today's big news again I'm so privileged to be joined by Rachel Chan who has become a force for change when it comes to this topic we'll be talking about the Stop Asian Hate Virtual Day of Action and Healing.

So Rachel thank you so much for joining us today.

I would like for you to explain why today is so significant.

>> I think it is great that the communities are culminating together to really begin to drive action and it's not just words anymore.

It is action.

I actually learned in doing some of my own research is today when the Naturalization Act was passed in 1970 and I was a little surprised to see

though not completely surprised that it was actually a limited law that it didn't actually benefit minority groups but it was a step in the right direction for citizenship so I think the significance of today historically and then also having the communities come together to rally makes it forward progression for communities and for the human race alike.

>> DIANA ALVEAR: So what is today all about, calling it a Virtual Day of Action and Healing?

>> I think it is about having dialogue, having open conversation. Bringing awareness to the stories and demystifying some of the stereotypes you may have and misconceptions you may have. I think education is really important but really connecting with people to hear their story.

I myself have been reflecting on a couple of things.

And of stereotypes.

So I've been sharing the story with some of my community and some of my friends about how you know oftentimes because we are a minority, we get confused to be in places to help.

There's one incident I recall where a family was picking up our car from the garage.

We live in Manhattan New York City we went to go pick up our car from the garage my husband was confused to be the parking attendant I thought at that moment to myself why would they have confused him, he was wearing normal clothes.

He wasn't wearing a parking attendant uniform.

He was holding several bags, our kids were running around sort of next to him.

But why would that be.

And you know part of me struggled with what to tell my kids at that moment.

My son, was probably four or five at the time and he had asked me, why did that man try to give his keys to Daddy and I kind of just froze a little bit and didn't know how to answer.

Because should I have said it?

Should I have made a scene?

Created an object lesson?

Part of me didn't want to pop my young children's bubble of the world is good and people can be kind but at the same time this was -- this was kind of an example of racism.

And I struggled with it at the moment.

And ultimately decided I wasn't prepared to have that conversation with

them or do it in the right way so I simply responded factually and said that he thought, you know, your father was the parking attendant and my son pressed why, why would he think that and I simply responded, I don't know, maybe he got confused and kind of just sloughed it off and to this day I kind of regret not using it as a more pointed lesson.

But I think I still struggle -- my kids are still young.

And I still struggle with teaching them.

But in a way I feel responsible as a parent to prepare them.

They are Asian American.

They will potentially face some of the challenges I face.

So it's a hard thing as a parent.

And as someone who has grown up with racism, also.

To find that right balance.

But I do think, you know, I've been more encouraged of late to actually start speaking out and having these open conversations with them.

Because I do think you need to.

You know, and starting to have that dialogue and being open with each other, being vulnerable with each other, is the only way that we're going to learn.

And truly understand.

>> DIANA ALVEAR: That's a really tough spot to be in as a mom though I worry about that too you and I caught up a little bit before this and we're both first generation Americans and we have very strong ties to our roots but then we also we're fully Americanized and our kids are American. So it's a tough spot to be in as a parent when you have to talk about things that are really tough like that.

Tell me a little bit about your culture, your family.

I would love to know a little bit more about you.

>> So I was born and raised here in the U.S.

So most of my life in New York.

My parents and grandparents came over from Hong Kong at the same time.

They have been here for nearly 60 years.

I am blessed to have both of my grandmothers still with us and active.

And growing up, I spent some time in Queens and Long Island.

Not really in predominant Asian communities.

And so being one of the only Asian families in the neighborhood was pretty tough.

The kids would -- the kids would want to play with us.

But always asked a lot of questions.

Or make some remarks.

You know, I remember -- I vividly remember an image of a girl like peers into our house so intently when we went out to play and asked why does it look normal?

Like why don't you have these other things?

And I just didn't understand what the line of questioning was about.

You know.

And you know typical questions like you must know kung fu because you're Chinese and turning up their nose at some of the things we were eating for lunch because my mother prepared us things that we ate that was part of our culture.

And so it was -- it was interesting and hard growing up.

Also I do think my parents did a good job.

They didn't -- it's not in the Asian culture to speak out.

And to speak up against things.

And they taught us to work really hard.

And the rewards will come.

And don't disrupt anything.

So it's -- it kind of is against my nature and my culture and sort of how I've been nurtured to really speak up and speak out.

I've started to be more open and share more about it because I feel that it is necessary.

And you know the interesting thing about growing up is first generation American born is you're sort of in this weird place.

You know the Chinese community knows -- they can tell right away.

There's something about my skin that is different.

There's something about my height that is different because I was born here in the U.S. and my parents used to say it's because you have access to milk and other dietary things that we didn't have when we were in Hong Kong and other parts of Asia but they can single you out right away and actually there's a term that they used to refer to as American born Chinese I wouldn't say it's an endearing term it's not like wholly negative but it is a classification that you are part of that group.

And you are different than being 100% Chinese.

And then, also, I consider myself 100% American.

I was born here.

America is all I know.

I really don't have any blood relatives in Asia at all.

And I myself did not go visit Asia until I was nearly 30 years old.

So you find yourself between two worlds.

Like what does that make you, you know and I consider myself Asian American and not like looking at those words as a combination, looking at those words as a whole.

That is who I am and that's who I identify as.

>> DIANA ALVEAR: I have to tell you I think it's so important to have you speaking here with us on Up to Speed.

I commend your courage because it's not an easy thing to do to open up when it comes to a topic like this.

But I'm so glad that you're speaking out right now.

Because I think it's really important for people to hear your story.

To know you as a person.

And go beyond just being a V Teamer and a colleague but really understand what is at stake here and of course that leads me to my last question for you is I think so many of us right now are horrified at what has been happening, the violence against Asian Americans, the violence against Black Americans.

I mean, as a whole this is something that everybody is grappling with so what can we do to be better allies?

>> Yeah, I think reaching out, having conversations.

Being open about that dialogue.

And really trying to understand.

Again, I think there's a lot of things like that I personally probably don't know a lot about other cultures.

And education is super important.

You know, just really trying to connect on a human level.

Hear their stories.

And then giving support is more meaningful than just you know just like acknowledging the fact that it exists I think.

There is -- as I've been sharing more stories, a lot of people have pinged me one-on-one and have started connecting with me.

And I think you develop a very different relationship that way that you can really build.

And I think us as humans need that kind of spirit and we need that sort of connectivity and we need to continue to push on that way.

Or else we won't really get in forward momentum.

I do want to share a quote that actually came across recently that I think is quite applicable it says when you cannot control what's happening challenge yourself to control the way you respond.

That's where your power is.

And you know for me, I shared a little with you earlier that I am not an outspoken person by any means.

And I am not a huge fan of social media personally.

But I've gone through a swirl of emotions in the time and recently reading through all of these things.

And at one point I felt so much rage on something I read that has happened about a mom who was with her child and got stabbed and went to the precinct to report it and was told it's not considered a hate crime because there wasn't a slur involved or there wasn't anything said to her. And I just got so angry because a police officer who swore to protect the community and its citizens had somebody come up to them and said that they felt threatened and afraid and that person said it wasn't good enough and I find that wholly unacceptable.

So to me right now I don't feel like I can stand silent anymore.

And I do feel like I need to continue speaking, whether it's going to be in small forums or larger forums.

I don't think -- to me that doesn't matter.

As long as you're able to connect and really help drive some change.

And understanding I think is the first level of change that I'm looking to help increase, you know, the understanding of, of everybody and just making people feel comfortable to talk about things that are uncomfortable.

>> DIANA ALVEAR: I can tell you I know you were telling me that this is not normal for you.

That you're not normally somebody who speaks up and speaks out about this kind of thing but you're being very courageous right now you're doing a world of good and educating us on these kinds of topics thank you so much for your work on behalf of the Asian American community and I can tell your daughter is really proud of you she has been there hugging you, as well.

It's not easy to take a stand.

It's not easy to be this public about something that's difficult to talk about.

But Rachel thank you so much if I could hug you I would hug you right now.

I so appreciate you being part of this.

And you know, it's time to take some action on this so thank you so much for being with us.

>> Thank you, Diana.

>> DIANA ALVEAR: And for the rest of you who are watching as you heard Rachel say we are joining people across the country to call for an end to violence and discrimination against Asian communities.

As she said, this is coinciding with the anniversary of the Naturalization Act.

And we have a series of social cards that you can use to declare your support to the Asian community and encourage others to do the same we have a slide show you can find those on our inside Verizon social channel and tag them with the #stopAsianhate.

We all need to be loud and proud to tell people where we stand to make sure we are standing in allyship.

Amelia Gonzales is at the White House talking about combating hate specifically anti-Asian violence and Verizon was only one of four companies invited to attend this is very important we're very proud to have an issue in this issue so now we are going to turn to some more news of the week.

On Monday we may Christy's day by having her family present her with the Gallup Exceptional Workplace Award trophy live to her in-person.

This was such a fun surprise.

If you didn't check it out you really want to go back and watch it was great to see her son her daughter and her husband there Tuesday Yahoo held its Build It Forward event you got to see everyone from Guru to Serena Williams and the whole show was hosted by funny guy Craig Robinson.

And Verizon Media announced that they are donating \$5 million in media to a number of disability organizations.

In addition, Verizon is going to ramp up captioning efforts and commit to featuring closed captions on 100% of new user-facing video.

Now including partner content.

That is streamed on our own video players starting on April 1st.

We also caught up on Hans and Guru to hear more about the show hearing more about Build It Forward so really great things all around.

Wednesday, we debuted Enterate con Verizon, our new Hispanic focused show and we've gotten so much positive feedback from our viewers it's amazing and we're happy to say a new episode is in the works so stay tuned tenemos mucho mas how about Verizon Business's news we'll start with Frontline Finals Live a Twitch gaming event we had NBA players Donovan Mitchell of the Utah Jazz and Karl-Anthony Towns of the Minnesota Timberwolves so they were battling with the volunteer firefighters Micheal Duffy and Raymond Hess what a fun night and if you missed it another chance next month Atlanta Hawks Trae Young and Denver Nuggets's Jamal Murray will be ready to take you on.

We also got an update on Food for Frontline Workers.

Verizon Frontline enables small businesses to provide meals to essential workers in Washington D.C. we have partnered with Food on the Stove and Power of 10 Initiative more than 1500 meals were prepared by local

restaurants and delivered to DC firefighters, EMTs and Coronavirus vaccination centers.

Also you're going to want to be sure to get some love to the #WomenOwnWednesday campaign.

This week top designer and project runway favorite Christian Siriano tagged a woman owned business that inspires him.

So now it's your turn to tag your favorite women-owned business along at @Verizonbusiness and #WomenOwnWednesday I know lots of women-owned businesses I love I plan to do the same.

We also had the new Next20 episode drop this week.

And boy was it a good one.

Women Money Matters.

Yahoo Finance reporter, Alexis Keenan spoke with Bola Sokunbi, best-selling author and CEO and founder of Clever Girl Finance, we had Erin Lowry, the best-selling author of the Broke Millennial book series.

And Sallie Krawcheck, yes, the Sallie Krawcheck CEO and co-founder of Ellevest, they all came together and gave their advice on how women can be their own advocates and build a strong financial future.

If you missed any of these of course you can catch all of the replays, Build It Forward, Enterate and Next20 on the web we'll have links to those replays in today's story.

Okay so this next story I'm really excited to present to you because it's one that's going to touch your heart if you need more proof that the work we the V Team collectively matters and that women's history is made every day, I'm so excited to have you meet 13-year-old Chloe Gibson.

She was empowered to help her mom through a STEM program that is developed by Verizon Innovative Learning.

Take a look.

>> CHLOE GIBSON: Hi my name is Chloe Gibson I live in Berea Kentucky and I am the creator of the Liam Project.

[MUSIC].

>> CHLOE GIBSON: My little brother Liam he was born at 28 weeks he was a pound and 13 ounces.

During that time I would come home and I would watch my mother cry. Just not having him with her.

[MUSIC].

>> CHLOE GIBSON: So when I was at Verizon's camp, they told us to think of a project and stories that is important to us.

Using design thinking.

So I immediately thought of Liam and how I wanted to help other families

not have to go through that.

[MUSIC].

>> And so when she told me this I was just blown away.
I was very humbled.
I am so proud of her.
That she would want to take something that happened to us and make it better for others.

>> CHLOE GIBSON: The Liam Project is an app for parents or caregivers to see live footage of their baby at all times. So for 24 hours a day there will be a camera with the incubator and you can see stats and milestones at all times. There will also be direct messaging for nurses so it kind of alleviates the stress of not knowing how your baby is doing at that time.

[MUSIC].

>> CHLOE GIBSON: The Verizon Innovative Learning camp really empowered me, also, because it was all girls. So watching them all kind of share their own stories and struggles they had been through and making a project out of it. Thinking of ways they can solve these issues that many people go through every day.

>> DIANA ALVEAR: I mean, if that isn't proof to you that the work we do here matters oh, my gosh when I first -- my teammate came to me and told me this story he was working with Danny Perez a great force at BUILD I said we have to hear her story and do more with it I'm so happy we were able to showcase that and just what initiative on -- on the part of such a young girl to say I'm going to do something to help my mom and other moms out there that story really gets to me. A little reminder don't forget that Saturday is Earth Hour it's our 12th year participating in Earth Hour related initiatives for every hour volunteered in the month of March, we are planting a tree. Our goal is 20,000 hours and that is our challenge to you. So let us know what you are doing this year for Earth Hour, you can send a note to good@Verizon.com. Make sure you send pictures. We love to see your beautiful faces showing us all the good that you're doing around the world.

Speaking of around the world.

We're going to end our show today on an international note.

So I am Diana Alvear thank you so much for joining me today.

You learn so much good -- learned so much good stuff.

You heard amazing empowering stories from Rachel and how we can be good allies.

And we're going to end this weekend, I know so many of us, including me, have been yearning to travel, dreaming of going somewhere else other than our houses and our immediate areas, right?

Well we're going to take a trip to Mexico because we've been asking you to send in your sign-off and we are so lucky that Hector Borro Madrid did exactly that he was in Mexico City waiting outside the hospital while his wife was at a doctor's appointment he recognized this sculpture done by Sebastian the famous Mexican sculptor.

>> HECTOR BORRO: This is Hector Borro.
Based out of Mexico City.
Until next time, you are Up to Speed.

[MUSIC]