




# Woodrow Wilson House Volunteer Scholars Program

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Summer 2024 - Anya Eberle



# About Me

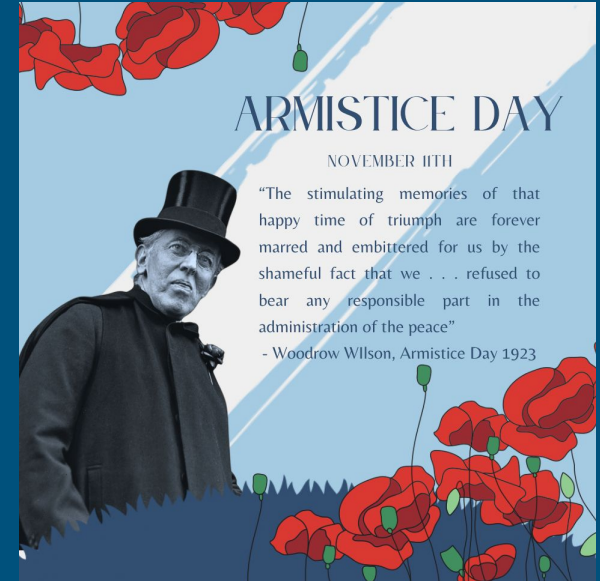
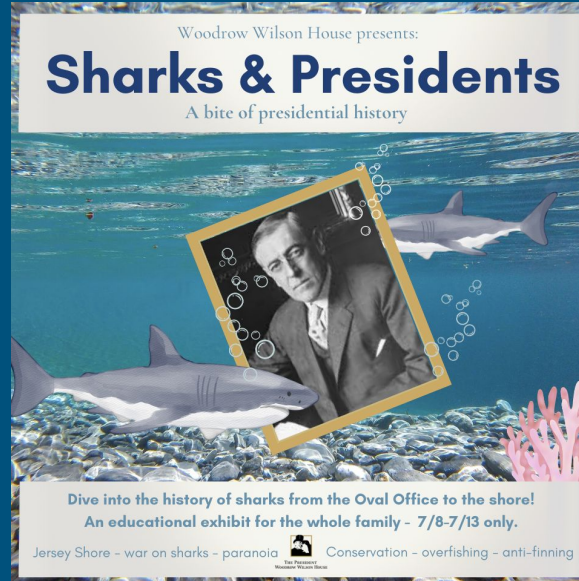
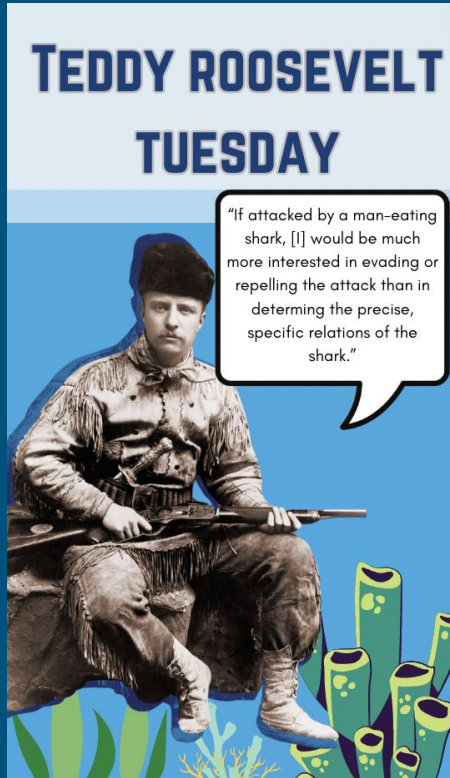
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- From Oceanside, CA
- Rising senior studying history with a minor in German studies at UC San Diego
- Focus on contemporary German queer history



# Social Media Posting

- Designed Canva graphics for Instagram posts on special anniversaries/holidays, as well as the special Shark Week exhibition advertisements
- Helped create poster boards for the final Shark Week Exhibition



# Visiting Museums



Chinese-American Museum



National Museum of American History



National Museum of Asian Art



# Exhibition Research

"Not since Robert Caro's *The Years of Lyndon Johnson* have I been so riveted by a work of history." — GEORGE STEPHANOPOULOS

## SECRET CITY

The Hidden History of  
GAY WASHINGTON  
JAMES KIRCHICK

### Section 2: Historical Context

#### 1. Overview of Washington, DC/America During Their (This demographic's) Time:

- Socio-political landscape of the era for their demographic
- Major events affecting their race/demographic or group at that time.

#### 2. Challenges Faced by Their Race/Group:

- Specific social, economic, and political challenges.

#### 3. Progress and Movements:

- Relevant movements or progress towards civil rights for their race or group during that period.

### Research

- The Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882 had set a precedent for anti-Asian discrimination
  - (2) Increasing number of anti-Asian laws passed, including the 1913 Alien Land Act and various California measures limiting Japanese land ownership and farming
    - (2) California political leadership pushed hard against Asian-American inclusion/acceptance due to heavy anti-Asian sentiment on the West Coast and fears that the large waves of Asian immigration to California were preceding a Japanese invasion (based partially in Japan's imperial expansion abroad at the time)
  - (1) The Chinese Exclusion Act had caused Chinese immigration to slow considerably, replaced primarily by Japanese immigration and some increased migration from countries like Korea, India, and the Philippines until 1917.
- (2) Anti-Japanese sentiments were very high in the US during the 1910s, and groups like the Asiatic Exclusion League pushed for the expansion of the Chinese Exclusion Act.
  - (1) America was experiencing heavy immigration, including from Asia, causing greater social inequality for different ethnic groups
    - (1) Japanese immigration in particular was increasing very quickly and was attracting national attention.
      - (2) This Japanese immigration and fears of job security in the US were largely responsible for the rise in anti-Japanese sentiments at the time. However, Japan's imperial ventures in Asia also sparked fears in the US because it caused many Americans to worry whether Japan might attempt to invade the United States the same way that it had invaded other countries.
    - (2) A growing Nativist movement pushed fears of Japanese immigrants buying up Californian land and annexing the West Coast.
- (2) Many Asian-Americans were ineligible for US citizenship on the basis of race
  - However, some Asian-American veterans who served during WWI were later granted an exception to this policy and became eligible for citizenship
- (1) By the 1910s and 1920s, the United States was increasingly interacting with leaders of Western-inspired reformist movements in Asian countries and saw greater diplomatic relations with countries like China and Korea. During Wilson's time, for instance, Chinese reformists, including a general and assistant to Sun Yat-Sen named Chinfu Wang-Shia, sometimes came to the United States to attend university and practice diplomacy.
- (1) Beginning in the early 1900s, the US saw an increase in Korean immigration due to Japan's increasingly aggressive colonial ventures in Korea. Many Koreans fled from the Japanese military or sought political exile in the United States after fighting against Japanese imperialism.
  - (1) Many Koreans were also recruited to work on sugarcane plantations in Hawai'i, as the early colony was experiencing labor shortages thanks to the Chinese Exclusion Act.
  - (1) Between 1905 and 1924, approximately 2,000 Korean women immigrated to the US to marry Asian-American male laborers who had entered the country years prior.

- Researched the Asian-American and LGBTQ+ history of the US and Washington DC
- Visited museums, dug into databases/online archives, and read a historiography to prepare
- Created research notes for the House to use to create an exhibition on DC's demographics

# Data Collection and Presentation

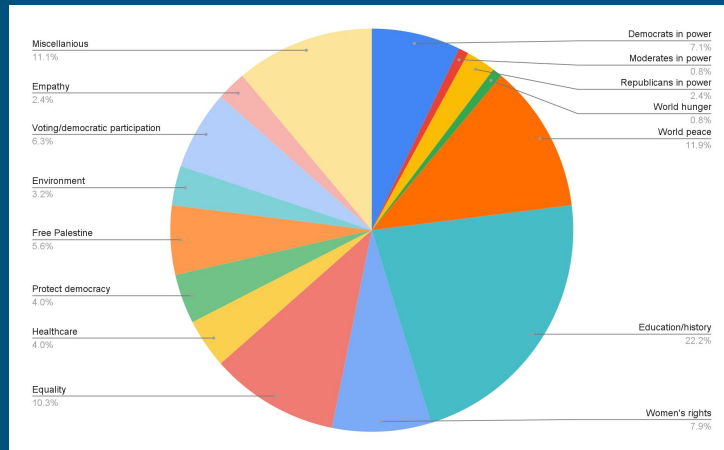
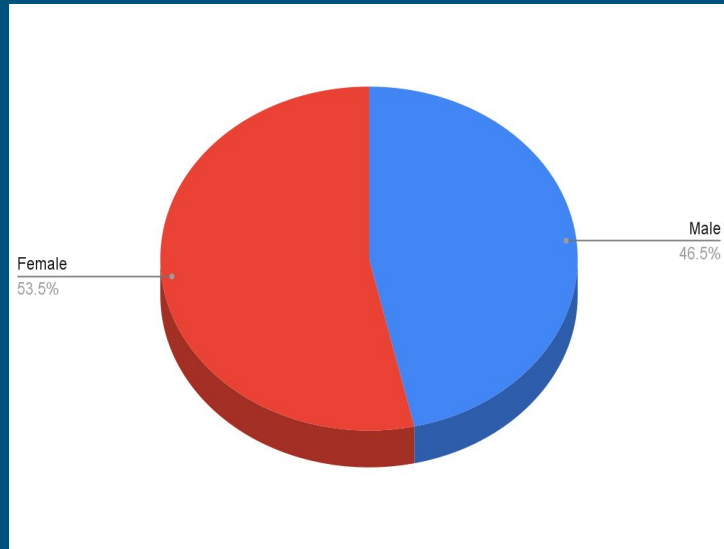
**SECURITY**  
 RECORDS STORAGE SERVICES  
 101 FLORIDA AVENUE, N.W., WASHINGTON, D.C. 20008-2007  
 (202) 274-5500

McDow Wilson House  
 2349 S Street, NW Washington, DC 20008

HOUSEHOLD GOODS DESCRIPTIVE INVENTORY (SUBJECT TO THE CONDITIONS SHOWN ON THE REVERSE SIDE OF THIS INVENTORY)

ITEM NO.	QTY	ARTICLE	UNIT	CONDITION AT ORIGIN	DESCRIPTION OF DAMAGE	MARKS
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2	1	Mattress	1/2 Doz	SO		
3	3	pieces of bedding	SO	SO		
4	1	Stool	1/2 Doz	SO		
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 FOR: [Signature]



- Collected and organized data on WWH guest feedback, DC/US demographics
- Explored channels such as the Census Bureau, the Library of Congress, the DC History Center, the National Archives, and more
- Digitized WWH inventory records

# What I Learned

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- Gained experience researching and working with museums/historical settings
- Prepared me for applying to graduate school
- Gave me the opportunity to experience Washington D.C.



Thank you.

