



COORDINATOR'S MESSAGE

This month's celebration is one that is especially dear to me as someone who identifies as multiracial, Asian and white. My father, who recently passed away from lymphoma, was the first of his family to be born in the United States after his parents and older brothers fled across southern China in the 1940s. My dad did a lot of work in his life for various efforts of diversity, inclusion, and social justice, and although he was not one to be demonstrative about his own culture, he informed my way of thinking and acting in the world. Whether it was taking me to performances of Asian dance styles or making dumplings together, there was a lot of joy in these familial connections over culture. My dad also worked diligently to ensure I developed understanding and empathy for other cultures, which I hope these newsletters can encourage you to do as well. I hope all of you can continue to find ways to build your relationships, ask questions, and listen with genuine compassion as you spend time with your family in the coming months.

~Joslyn Hunscher-Young

APIA HERITAGE MONTH

Since 1992, May has been officially recognized as "Asian Pacific American Heritage Month" in the United States, and most people typically add "Islander" to make it "Asian Pacific Islander American (APIA)." The legislative push for this month started in the late 1970s when senators and representatives from New York and Hawaii put forward resolutions to recognize a week in early May as Pacific/Asian American Heritage Week. Both resolutions failed initially, but then in 1978, another joint resolution was passed and signed by President Jimmy Carter in October. It was then expanded to a full month in 1990 and received its official annual recognition in 1992.

May was selected because it honors the first documented immigration of Japanese people to the U.S. (May 7, 1843) as well as the completion of the transcontinental railroad (May 10, 1869), which relied heavily on the labor and lives of Chinese immigrant workers. Although these events both highlight contributions of East Asian Americans, the month is intended to honor and celebrate the lives, cultures, and contributions of the great diversity of people who can claim the broad term "Asian" and/or "Pacific Islander" as part of their identities. This means recognizing the entirety of the Asian continent as well as a large number of Pacific Islands from Melanesia, Micronesia, and Polynesia.

At WIHI & WIMA, the Asian Student Association is hosting one virtual event open to students and families on Wednesday, May 13 from 4:30-5:30 pm. Please join us for a screening of 4 short episodes of *We Gon' Be Alright*, based off the short essays by the same title by Jeff Chang. We'll live stream the episodes and have some discussion after each one. Learn more about the episodes and book at <http://bealright.net>. The event will be via Zoom (<https://tinyurl.com/y9jfyaes>) with a password of APIAMonth.

LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES & CONVERSATION STARTERS

Here are a few ideas of how you can continue your learning and celebrations:

- Look through some of the online resources PBS has to offer to learn about and celebrate APIA Month, and share what you love: <https://tinyurl.com/ycmgggfv>.
- Explore the online and digital exhibitions from the Smithsonian Asian Pacific American Center, and discuss what you learned: <https://smithsonianapa.org>.
- Investigate some of the suggested resources from the Center for Asian American Media and consider when and how Asians are represented in the media: <https://tinyurl.com/ya7r3car> and <https://tinyurl.com/y8yeu47w>.

"SOMETIMES WHEN WE ARE GENEROUS IN SMALL, BARELY DETECTABLE WAYS, IT CAN CHANGE SOMEONE ELSE'S LIFE FOREVER."

~Margaret Cho



CELEBRATE DIVERSITY WITHIN APIA COMMUNITY

As mentioned earlier, there is great diversity within the APIA community. Not only does it encompass many different ethnicities, but there is also great diversity - as in all racial groups - when we think about the intersections of our many other identities. For some greater explanation of some of these elements, consider the following resources and questions:

- **Hawaiians Live in Aloha** (<https://tinyurl.com/y6v4plho>): A resource from Teaching Tolerance about Māhū in Hawaii.
- **This Photo Shoot Featuring Asian Women Is Stunningly Diverse** (<https://tinyurl.com/yavnvzye>): A HuffPost article and video highlighting some of the ways people are challenging typical body size - and ethnic/racial - representation of Asian women in fashion.
- **Asian Americans** (<https://tinyurl.com/yc8jsu9m>): A collection of resources exploring many elements of the Asian community "by the numbers" from the PEW Research Center.

And consider some of the many other ways that we can learn about and celebrate the diversity of the Asian Pacific Islander American experience while still working for equity and justice for all of these people and so many more.



SUPPORTING APIA COMMUNITY DURING COVID-19

During this current global crisis, an element of discrimination that has been on the rise in recent months is anti-Asian racism. Perhaps you have seen this or experienced this yourself, but what is most important is that we all continue to work to be allies and advocates for anti-racist work and actions. To help in this effort, please consider the following resources:

- **Anti-Asian Racism & COVID-19** (<https://tinyurl.com/ybfrzku7>): This set of slides from a professor at Colorado University who is the President of the Association for Asian American Studies helps to highlight some of this history of anti-Asian sentiment in the U.S., what it looks like now, and what we can all do to combat this discrimination - and it includes links to many other resources.
- **US Government Should Better Combat Anti-Asian Racism** (<https://tinyurl.com/y8r8jppm>): This is a recent opinion piece from someone at the Human Rights Watch explaining some of the crisis we face right now.
- **'I am not a virus.'** How this artist is illustrating coronavirus-fueled racism (<https://tinyurl.com/yde7umxa>): This is an interview with one of many artists working to bring attention to the #iamnotavirus movement and other efforts to combat racism; her art work is also used above this blurb.
- **How to Respond to Coronavirus Racism** (<https://tinyurl.com/ybknulf8>): This guide from Teaching Tolerance highlights some specific steps and ways of working to disrupt anti-Asian racism that we could all practice at home and/or use in person or online to interrupt these discriminatory acts.

CELEBRATIONS

Our Asian Student Association and others have made some slides of key figures in the APIA community (<https://tinyurl.com/y9fo4h7k>) - and a playlist of suggested songs to listen to while you work, clean, or do other things in our time at home this month (<https://tinyurl.com/y76y29jk>).

EVENTS

Highlighted here is a following suggestion as well as a few virtual events to consider joining this month.

FOLLOWING SUGGESTION

Although based in Seattle, this group seems to be getting lots of virtual content ready for APIA Heritage month. In addition to the event below, they will post something each day in May as well. Follow them at:

- facebook.com/apiheritage
- instagram.com/apiheritage
- twitter.com/apiheritage

SPECIFIC EVENTS

Seattle Center's APIA Heritage Month Celebration

- May 3, 3:00 pm (12 pm PDT)
- Live stream from

<https://tinyurl.com/ybmwb2yh>

WGBH Zoom Webinar for APIA Month & Preview off PBS's Asian Americans

- May 4, 7:00 pm
- Learn more and register (free) for the event at

<https://tinyurl.com/y7k4pz9d>

PBS Series Premiere: Asian Americans

- May 11 & 12, 8:00 pm on your local PBS Station
- More details can be found here: <https://tinyurl.com/yaxjv2dl> OR <https://tinyurl.com/y7dmq8kw>

WIHI & WIMA APIA Event - We Gon' Be Alright

- May 13, 4:30 pm via Zoom
- Zoom ID: 725 9764 2499; Password: APIAMonth

RESOURCES

The following resources were used in the creation of this newsletter:

- <https://tinyurl.com/y7ljatuc> Images
- <https://www.loc.gov/item/2013634934/>
- <https://www.loc.gov/item/2011631971/>
- <https://tinyurl.com/y8ypvknk>