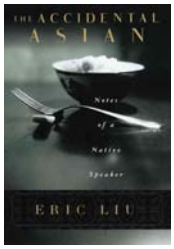
Asian Pacific American Heritage Month
Bibliography
May 2008

"Leadership, Diversity and Harmony – Gateway to Success"
2008 Theme

Asian Pacific American Heritage Month is celebrated each May to commemorate the contributions of people of Asian and Pacific Islander descent in the United States. This month was chosen by Congress because two important anniversaries occurred during this time: the arrival of the first Japanese immigrants in America on May 7, 1843 and the completion of the transcontinental railroad (by many Chinese laborers) on May 10, 1869.

The following is a selected list of books, videos and websites that will help you learn more about Asian Pacific American history. All books and videos are available at the Norfolk Public Library, and the websites may be viewed online at any of the public computer stations located in the library.

Nonfiction



The Accidental Asian: Notes of a Native Speaker by Eric Liu**.**
A personal and poignant reflections on assimilation by a young second-generation Chinese American especially recommended for non-Asian readers.

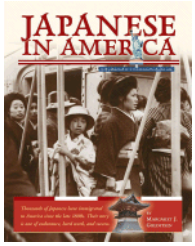
Asian-American Authors by Kathy Ishizuka.
Profiles the lives of ten famous Asian-American writers, including Carlos Bulosan, Sook Nyul Choi, Maxine Hong Kingston, Marie G. Lee, Bette Bao Lord, Kyoko Mori, Bharati Mukherjee, Amy Tan, Yoshiko Uchida, and Laurence Yep.

Asian American Experiences in the United States: Oral Histories of First to Fourth Generation Americans from China, the Philippines, Japan, India, the Pacific Islands, Vietnam, and Cambodia by Joann Faung Jean Lee.
A look at the diversity of Asian American cultures through more than 50 interviews with 40 people.

The Columbia Guide to Asian American History by Gary Y. Okihiro.
A scholarly survey of 200 years of Asian-American experience.

Honor by Fire: Japanese Americans at War in Europe and the Pacific by Lyn Crost.
A WWII war correspondent offers an admiring history of Japanese Americans' contribution, chronicling their military service, the horrendous casualties they suffered, and the reputation they finally earned from many high-ranking officers as "America's secret weapon."

I'm the One that I Want by Margaret Cho.
Autobiography of one of America's most popular and outspoken performers.



Japanese in America by Margaret J. Goldstein.
Examines the history of Japanese immigration to the United States, discussing why the Japanese came, what their lives were like after they arrived, where they settled, and customs they brought from home.

New World and Pacific Civilizations: Cultures of America, Asia, and the Pacific
Edited by Göran Burenhult.
Part of a set on the emergence of civilization, this work tracks developments along the Pacific Rim.

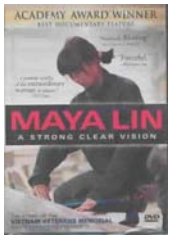
Notable Asian Americans
Edited by Helen Zia and Susan B. Gall.
Narrative biographical essays on 250 prominent Asian Americans, past and present.

Song of Saigon: One Woman's Journey to Freedom
By Anh Vu Sawyer and Pam Proctor.
The dramatic story of how the faith of a young Vietnamese medical student helped her persevere and escape with her family in the spring of 1975, before the fall of Saigon.

Strangers from a Different Shore: A History of Asian Americans by Ronald Takaki.
In a blend of eloquent narrative history, vivid personal recollection, and oral testimony, Ronald Takaki relates the diverse 150-year history of Asian Americans.

Videos

In Our Aunties' Words: the Filipino Spirit of Hampton Roads
Produced by the Filipino American National Historical Society of Hampton Roads
Presents the immigrant experiences of Filipina women pioneers who arrived in the United States after 1955 and went on to contribute to the communities that now comprise South Hampton Roads, Virginia.



Maya Lin: A Strong Clear Vision
Reveals the origins of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial and tells the story of its 21 year old creator, a Yale architecture student. Lin's plan was selected from over 1,000 different designs. What began as one of the country's most bitterly disputed monuments became one of the world's most inspirational and frequently visited memorials.

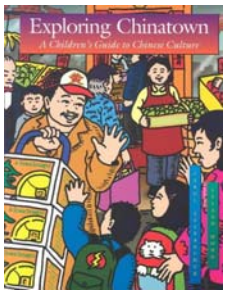
The Ming Tsai Video Collection
Emmy award-winning chef and cookbook author Ming Tsai shares his easy recipes and techniques for creating flavorful East-West food at home.

Juvenile Books

Asian-American Scientists
By Lisa Yount.
Profiles 12 Asian-American scientists, including Subrahmanyan Chandrasekhar, Paul Chung-wu Chu, and Constance Tom Noguchi.

Asian-Americans in the Old West
By Gail Sakurai.
Describes the important role of the Chinese, Japanese, and other Asians in the settlement of the American West.

Extraordinary Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders
By Susan Sinnott.
Biographical sketches of notable Asian Americans and Pacific Islander Americans, from the nineteenth century to the present.



Exploring Chinatown: A Children's Guide to Chinese Culture
By Carol Stepanchuk; illustrations by Leland Wong.
San Francisco's Chinatown is the backdrop in this informative book about varied aspects of Chinese-American life including food, health, religion, art and more.

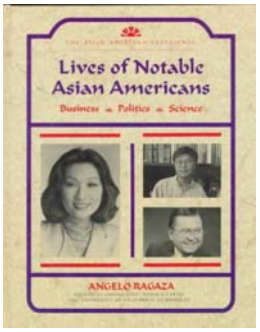
Extraordinary Asian-Pacific Americans
By Susan Sinnott.
Biographical sketches of notable Asian Americans and Pacific Americans, including cinematographer James Howe, scholar and politician S. I. Hayakawa, and novelist Amy Tan.

In the Heart of Filipino America: Immigrants from the Pacific Isles
By Ronald Takaki.
Asian Americans, the fastest growing ethnic group in North America, tell of their hopes and dreams in their own words.

A Kid's Guide to Asian American History: More Than 70 Activities
By Valerie Petrillo.
Presents step-by-step instructions for crafts based on Asian American customs along with a brief history of why each craft is important to Asian American culture.

Lives of Notable Asian Americans: Literature and Education
By Christina Chiu.
Discusses the lives of some Asian Americans primarily known for their writing, including Amy Tan, David Henry Kwang, Dharati Mukherjee, Jessica Hagedorn, and Laurence Yep.

Lives of Notable Asian Americans: Arts, Entertainment, Sports
By Geraldine Gan.
Includes Michael Chang, Sammy Lee, Zubin Mehta, Wayne Wang, Kristi Yamaguchi, Maya Lin, Isamu Noguchi, Anna May Wong, Yo-Yo Ma, and Margaret Cho



Lives of Notable Asian Americans: Business, Politics, Science
By Angelo Ragaza.
Biographical sketches of notable Asian Americans in business, politics, and science.

Maya Lin
By Bettina Ling.
Describes the life and work of the 21 year old Chinese American architect who designed the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C. and the Civil Rights Memorial in Montgomery, Alabama.

Seiji Ozawa
By Sheri Tan.
A biography of the famous Japanese conductor, a citizen of both Japan and the United States, who has achieved international recognition for his skills in interpreting western music.

Vietnamese Americans
By Susan Auerbach.
Highlights Vietnamese who have immigrated to the United States, their reasons for coming, where they have settled, and how they have contributed to their new country.

Databases

Databases are subscription resources that contain reliable, timely, and authoritative online sources of information. Links to these are found on the Library's Webpage at **www.npl.lib.va.us** under "Databases." Use your Norfolk Public Library card number for access to these resources:

Biography Resource Center
Full text articles drawn from hundreds of periodicals and books that provide biographical information on thousands of women from ancient days to the present.

Encyclopedia of World Biography
A multicultural biographical electronic book that covers notable individuals from every part of the world and from all time periods who have made significant contributions to human culture.

World Book Online
Containing every article form the 22-volumn printed set plus thousands more, this database has multimedia maps, videos, and articles including on women's contributions to world history.

Websites

Library of Congress
http://www.loc.gov/topics/asianpacific/
A multi-media resource of photographs, essays, recordings, and documents about Asian Pacific Americans' contributions to history.

PBS: Ancestors in the Americas
http://www.pbs.org/ancestorsintheamericas/
A multi-media companion site to the PBS series about Asian American immigrants. Includes timelines and teacher resources.

The Smithsonian Institution
http://www.smithsonianeducation.org/educators/resource_library/asian_american_resources.html
A multi-media resource of photographs, essays, recordings, and documents about Asian Pacific Americans' contributions to history for teachers.

U.S. Army: Asian/Pacific Americans in the U.S. Army
http://www.army.mil/asianpacificsoldiers/
Resources on Asian Pacific Americans who have served in the U.S. Army.

U.S. Census data on Asian Pacific Americans
http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/releases/archives/facts_for_features_special_editions/009714.html

Norfolk Public Library
301 E. City Hall Avenue, Norfolk, VA 23510
757-664-READ (7323); www.npl.lib.va.us