Asian Pacific American Heritage Month Bibliography May 2010

"Living in Many Worlds"

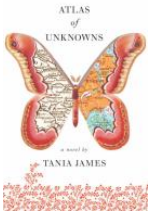
Smithsonian Institution's 2010 Theme

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. This year's theme explores the dynamic intersection of family, history, and cultural identity.

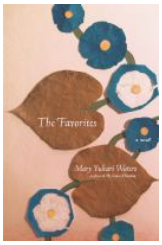
All books and videos are available at the Norfolk Public Library, and the websites may be viewed online at home or any of the public computer stations located in any branch library.

Fiction

The following selected fiction includes titles by award winning authors, recent best sellers, novels that are acclaimed, or titles that provide important insight into the history of Asian Pacific American heritage and culture.



Atlas of Unknowns
(Tania James) Winning a scholarship to a prestigious school in New York, Anju leaves her sister behind in Kerala, India, and enters the elite world of her Hindu American host family.

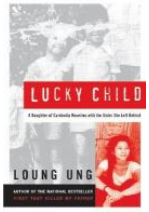


The Favorites: A Novel
(Mary Yukari Waters) During her 14th summer, Sarah Rexford, the daughter of a Japanese mother and an American father, goes with her mother to stay with her mother's family near Kyoto. She begins to notice subtle differences in how various members of the extended family are treated, and her questions lead to the revelation of long-held family secrets.

Home Boy: A Novel
(H.M. Naqvi) Three young Pakistani men in New York City at the turn of the millennium have the guts to claim the place as their own. But when they embark on a road trip to the hinterland weeks after 9/11 in search of the Shaman, a Gatsby-like compatriot who seemingly disappears into thin air, things go horribly wrong. Suddenly, they find themselves in a changed, charged America.

The Latehomecomer: A Hmong Family Memoir
(Kao Kalia Yang) Presents the journey from refuge camp to America and the hardships and joys of a family's struggle to adapt in a strange culture while holding onto traditions that are passed down from a beloved grandmother.

Lucky Child: A Daughter of Cambodia Reunites with the Sister She Left Behind



(Loung Ung) Loung was the lucky child, the sibling Eldest Brother chose to take with him to America. The youngest and the scrappiest, she was the one he believed had the best chance of making it.

Shanghai Girls: a Novel

(Lisa See) A novel about two sisters, two cultures, and the struggle to find a new life in America while bound to the old, Shanghai Girls is a fresh, fascinating adventure from beloved and bestselling author Lisa See.

Turning Japanese

(Cathy Yardley) The Devil Wears Prada meets *Lost in Translation* in this irresistible new novel from L. A. Woman author Cathy Yardley Meet Lisa Falloya, an aspiring half-Japanese, half-Italian American manga artist who follows her bliss by moving to Tokyo to draw the Japanese-style comics she's been reading for years.

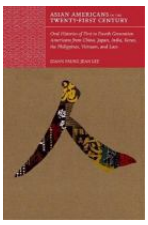
Nonfiction

The following list is selected nonfiction by award winning authors, recent best sellers, titles that are acclaimed, or titles that provide important insight to the history of Asian Pacific heritage and culture.

501 Bento Box Lunches: 501 Unique Recipes for Brilliant Bento

(Mari Baker) Home-packed lunches with small portions of varied delicious foods are a Japanese tradition that fits perfectly into a contemporary, healthy food diet.

Asian Americans in the Twenty-First Century: Oral Histories of First to Fourth Generation Americans from China, Japan, India, Korea, the Philippines, Vietnam, and Laos

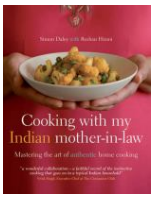


(Joann Faung Jean Lee) Presents a compilation of 27 interviews conducted with Asian Americans from a range of occupations: students, politicians, a lawyer, an educator, a photographer, musicians, a corporate professional, an engineer, a restaurant owner, a deliveryman, and a law enforcement officer, which reveal changes in Asian American identity since publication of Lee's last book 20 years ago

Asian Dumplings: Mastering Gyōza, Spring Rolls, Samosas, and More

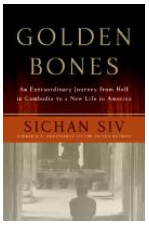
(Andrea Quynhgiao Nguyen) A guide to making authentic versions of the most popular regional dumplings also includes instructions for preparing dim sum favorites, in an illustrated reference that outlines such options as spicy potato samosas and Shanghai wonton soup.

Cooking With My Indian Mother-in-Law: Mastering the Art of Authentic Home Cooking *(Simon Daley)* Simon Daley provides recipes and step-by-step instructions for his Indian mother-in-law Roshan's traditional recipes passed down over centuries from the family's Gujerati roots in India.



The Fortune Cookie Chronicles: Adventures in the World of Chinese Food
(Jennifer 8. Lee) A woman's search for the world's greatest Chinese restaurant proves that egg rolls are as American as apple pie.

Golden Bones: An Extraordinary Journey from Hell in Cambodia to a New Life in America
(Sichan Siv) Documents the author's imprisonment in Cambodia by the Khmer Rouge, describing his dramatic escape from a slave labor camp and subsequent arrival in America, where he eventually became a senior White House aide.



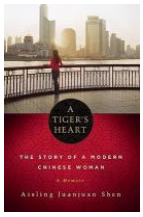
The Hindus: An Alternative History
(Wendy Doniger) A narrative account of history and myth that offers a new way of understanding one of the world's oldest major religions; this book elucidates the relationship between recorded history and imaginary worlds.

Modern Spice: A Inspired Indian Flavors for the Contemporary Kitchen *(Monica Bhide)*
A quick and easy cookbook for shortcuts to complicated traditional meals.

Pure & Simple: Homemade Indian Vegetarian Cuisine
(Vidhu Mittal) A mouthwatering collection of recipes reflecting the very best of Indian vegetarian cuisine presents more than 100 classic and contemporary recipes that are easy to prepare.

Tattooing in the Marquesas
(Willowdean Chatterson Handy) This definitive survey offers rare glimpses of a dying art. Banned for decades by colonial authorities, the ancient tattoo rituals were vanishing at the time of a 1921 survey.

A Tiger's Heart: The Story of a Modern Chinese Woman
(Aisling Juanjuan Shen) Called useless by her parents because she wasn't good at planting rice, Aisling became the first person from her village ever to attend college. She worked as a teacher, saleswoman, and translator in China before immigrating to the United States in 2000. In 2005 she graduated *magna cum laude* from Wellesley College; she currently works for an investment management firm in Boston.

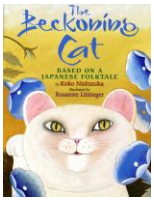


Wild, Wild East: Recipes & Stories from Vietnam
(Bobby Chinn) Offers recipes and describes the ingredients and preparation of authentic Vietnamese food, with stories about every dish and tales of unusual ingredients.

Juvenile and Young Adult Fiction

The following selected fiction is to educate young people about Asian Pacific American history and culture through contemporary and historical fiction novels by award winning authors, recent best sellers, novels that are acclaimed, or titles that provide important insight to the history of the Asian Pacific heritage and culture.

Alvin Ho: Allergic to Girls, School, and Other Scary Things
(Lenore Look) A young boy in Concord, Massachusetts, who loves superheroes and comes from a long line of brave Chinese farmer-warriors, wants to make friends, but first he must overcome his fear of everything.

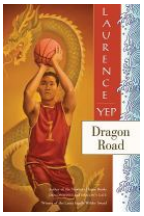


The Beckoning Cat: Based on a Japanese Folktale
(Koko Nishizuka) A retelling of the traditional Japanese tale describing the origins of the beckoning cat and how it came to be a symbol of good luck.

Bringing in the New Year
(Grace Lin) A Chinese American family prepares for and celebrates the Lunar New Year. End notes discuss the customs and traditions of Chinese New Year.

Everything Asian
*(Sung J. Woo)*Young David Kim reunites with the father he has not seen in five years while working in the family strip-mall gift shop, an endeavor during which he harbors a secret shame about what he believes to be his father's character flaws.

A Gift
(Yong Chen) Amy receives a gift for the Chinese New Year from her aunt and uncles who live far away in China.



Dragon Road
(Laurence Yep) In 1939, unable to find regular jobs because of the Great Depression, long-time friends Cal Chin and Barney Young tour the country as members of a Chinese American basketball team.

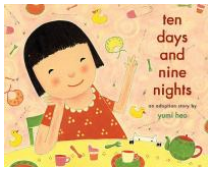
Yoko Writes Her Name
(Rosemary Wells) Kindergartner Yoko not only learns to write her letters and numbers in English, she shows her teacher and fellow students how to write their names using Japanese calligraphy.

Juvenile and Young Adult Nonfiction

The following list of selected nonfiction is to educate young people about Asian Pacific American history and culture by award winning authors, recent best sellers, or titles that provide important insight to the history of the Asian Pacific heritage and culture.

The Korean Americans
(Tamra Orr) Discusses the history of Korean immigration to the United States, and covers their customs and traditions, and the impact they have had on American culture.

Lost Childhood: My Life in a Japanese Prison Camp During World War II: *(Annelex Hofstra Layson)* A former prisoner-of-war tells how her family, along with ten thousand other Dutch residents living in the Dutch East Indies, was shipped off to internment camps where food rationing, terrible sanitary conditions, and an uncertain future were the norms for more than three years.



Ten Days and Nine Nights: An Adoption Story
(Yumi Heo) A young girl eagerly awaits the arrival of her newly-adopted sister from Korea, while her whole family prepares.

DVDs

The following selected films are to provide important insight to the history of Asian Pacific heritage and culture through fictional accounts or documentaries.
(Unless otherwise noted, DVDs are for mature audiences)

Asian Stories
(Cinema Epoch) A Chinese-American living in L.A. is deserted by his fiancée. Adding insult to injury, she's left him just two weeks before St. Valentine's Day, but after he's gotten the bills for the wedding and her $10,000 engagement ring. Looking to distract himself from his troubles, he invites his best friend to help him out of his depression, a Japanese ex-con who happens to be a hit man. However, his cure for depression involves hiring his hit man friend to kill him before St. Valentine's Day arrives.

The Cats of Mirikitani
(Linda Hattendorf)
Eighty-year-old Jimmy Mirikitani survived the trauma of WWII internment camps, Hiroshima, and homelessness by creating art. But when 9/11 threatens his life on the New York City streets, a local filmmaker brings him to her home and the two embark on a journey to confront Jimmy's painful past. An intimate exploration of the lingering wounds of war and the healing powers of community and art

The Pyongyang Concert
(EuroArts Music) Music became diplomacy when this courageous musical project united Americans and North Koreans. The musicians went from strength to strength in a beautiful program which illustrated the excellence of the orchestra.

Online Databases

The following databases are respected and authoritative places to go for information about people and historical events in Asian Pacific American history. Many include video, primary documents and photographs. For access from home or elsewhere, use your 13-digit library card number as your password.

Ancestry Library Edition
More than 1.5 billion names in over 4,000 databases. Includes records from the United States Census; military records; court, land and probate records; vital and church records; directories; passenger lists and more. [This database is available only inside the Library.]

Artists
Alphabetical list of links to biographies and works of major artists. [Access is free and open to the public.]

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.

Infotrac Religion & Philosophy
Over 640,000 articles on Religion and Philosophy.

World Book Online
Containing every article from the 22-volumn printed set plus thousands more, this database has multimedia maps, videos, and articles.

Websites

The following websites provide information on Asian Pacific history and culture in America and throughout the world, providing insight from recent issues to ancient history.

Encyclopedia Smithsonian

Asian Pacific American History and Culture

Library of Congress

A multi-media resource of photographs, essays, recordings, and documents about Asian Pacific Americans' contributions to history.

PBS: Ancestors in the Americas

A multi-media companion site to the PBS series about Asian American immigrants. Includes timelines and teacher resources.

The Smithsonian Institution

A multi-media resource of photographs, essays, recordings, and documents about Asian Pacific Americans' contributions to history for teachers and students.

U.S. Army: Asian/Pacific Americans in the U.S. Army

Resources on Asian Pacific Americans who have served in the U.S. Army.

U.S. Census Data on Asian Pacific Americans

Norfolk Public Library
235 E. Plume Street, Norfolk, VA 23502
757-664-READ; www.npl.lib.va.us