

Asian-Pacific American Heritage Month Booklist May 2013



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.

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.

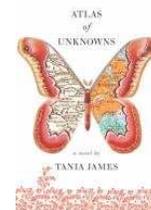
Please visit the NPL website for a list of programs and events at the library celebrating Asian-Pacific American Heritage Month.

ADULT 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.

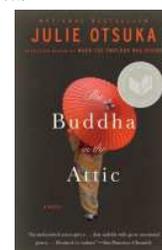
Atlas of Unknowns

(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.



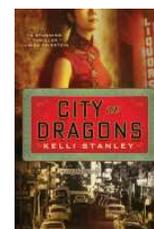
The Buddha In the Attic

(Julie Otsuka) A gorgeous novel by the celebrated author of *When the Emperor Was Divine* that tells the story of a group of young women brought from Japan to San Francisco as “picture brides” nearly a century ago. In eight unforgettable sections, *The Buddha in the Attic* traces the extraordinary lives of these women, from their arduous journeys by boat, to their arrival in San Francisco and their tremulous first nights as new wives; from their experiences raising children who would later reject their culture and language, to the deracinating arrival of war. Once again, Julie Otsuka has written a spellbinding novel about identity and loyalty, and what it means to be an American in uncertain times.



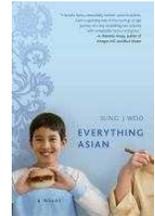
City of Dragons

(Kellie Stanley) February, 1940. San Francisco’s Chinatown is having a Rice Bowl Party, a carnival designed to raise money for China war relief. Miranda Corbie, a 33-year-old private investigator, stumbles upon the body of young Eddie Takahashi. The cops want it covered up. Miranda wants justice. From Chinatown tenements to a high-class bordello, fans of historical mysteries will love *City of Dragons*.



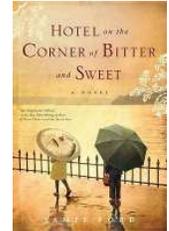
Everything Asian

(*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.



Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet

(*Jamie Ford*) When artifacts from Japanese families sent to internment camps during World War II are uncovered during renovations at a Seattle hotel, Henry Lee embarks on a quest that leads to memories of growing up Chinese in a city rife with anti-Japanese sentiment.

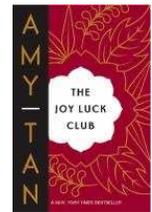


I Hotel: A Novel

(*Karen Tei Yamashita*) In this 2010 National Book Award finalist novel, Yamashita describes a motley cast of students, laborers, artists, revolutionaries, and provocateurs from San Francisco's Chinatown make their way through the history of the day, becoming caught in a riptide of politics and passion, clashing ideologies and personal turmoil that culminate in their effort to save the International Hotel--epicenter of the Yellow Power Movement in 1969.

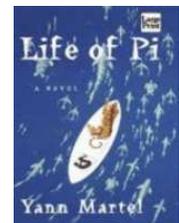
The Joy Luck Club

(*Amy Tan*) In 1949, four Chinese women--drawn together by the shadow of their past--begin meeting in San Francisco to play mah jong, invest in stocks and "say" stories. They call their gathering the Joy Luck Club--and forge a relationship that binds them for more than three decades.



Life of Pi

(*Martel Yann*) The son of a zookeeper, Pi Patel has an encyclopedic knowledge of animal behavior and a fervent love of stories. When his family emigrates from India to North America aboard a Japanese cargo ship, along with their zoo animals bound for new homes, the ship sinks and Pi finds himself in a lifeboat, his only companions a hyena, an orangutan, a wounded zebra, and Richard Parker, a 450-pound Bengal tiger. The movie is also available on DVD.

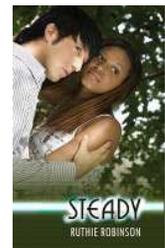


Short Girls: A Novel

(*Bich Minh Nguyen*) Two estranged Vietnamese sisters, each wrestling with their own lives, careers, and romances, are reunited at their father's American citizenship party, and forge a new relationship.

Steady

(*Ruthie Robinson*) An unlikely romance blossoms between a town's reigning garden queen and the new eco-friendly guy on the block, as he teaches her that through compassion, determination, and devotion, their love can steady any storm.

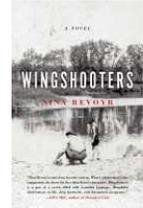


Turning Japanese

(Cathy Yardley) *The Devil Wears Prada* meets *Lost in Translation* in this irresistible 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.

Wingshooters

(Nina Revoyr) Michelle LeBeau and her white-Japanese family are forever changed when a black family moves into her all-white town in 1974.

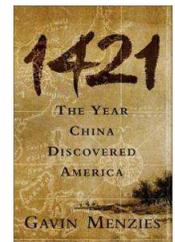


ADULT NONFICTION

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.

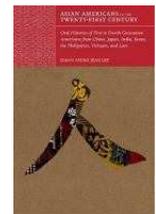
1421: The Year China Discovered America

(Gavin Menzies) Based on 15 years of in-depth research, "1421" traces the voyages of an extraordinary fleet of Chinese ships who actually charted America 70 years before Columbus, established a number of subsequently lost colonies in the Caribbean, circumnavigated the globe, desalinated water, and perfected the art of cartography



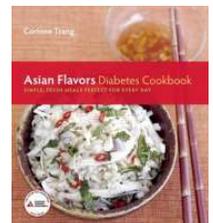
Asian Americans in the Twenty-First Century: Oral Histories of First to Fourth Generation Americans from China, Japan, India, Korea, the Philippines, Vietnam, and Laos

(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 Flavors Diabetes Cookbook: Simple, Fresh Meals Perfect for Every Day

(Corrine Trang) The first book that takes the naturally healthy recipes and meals of Asian cuisine and crafts them specifically for people with diabetes.

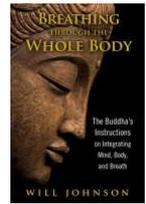


At Home with Madhur Jaffrey: Simple, Delectable Dishes from India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, and Sri Lanka

(Madhur Jaffrey) For all who love the magical flavors of good Indian cooking and want to reproduce effortlessly some of the delectable dishes from that part of the world, here is a groundbreaking book from the incomparable Madhur Jaffrey that makes it possible.

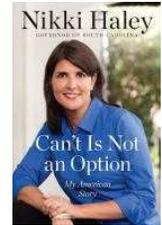
Breathing Through the Whole Body: The Buddha's Instructions on Integrating Mind, Body, and Breath

(*Will Johnson*) Explores the Buddha's own words on breathing meditation for healing, wholeness, and a deeper understanding of his teachings. Explaining how stillness in meditation refers not to a rigid and frozen body but to a quality of mind, showing how the flow of breath is directly affected by chronic tensions in the body and in the mind.



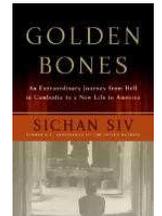
Can't Is Not an Option: My American Story

(*Nikki Haley*) Daughter of Sikhs who immigrated to the States from India in the late 1960s, In November 2010 Haley was elected South Carolina's first female governor and first nonwhite governor, and only the second Indian American governor in the country. She relates the inspiring story of her life and rising career in politics.



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

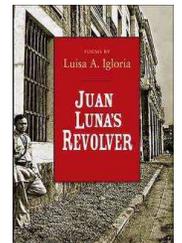
(*Wendy Doniger*) A narrative account of history and myth that offers a new way of understanding one of the world's oldest major religions; this book elucidates the relationship between recorded history and imaginary worlds.

I Love You Are for White People: A Memoir

(*Lac Su*) Heart-wrenching and ultimately uplifting, this stirring memoir chronicles one Asian-American immigrant's struggle to find himself--and to transcend the dangers of gang life in Los Angeles.

Juan Luna's Revolver

(*Luisa A. Igloria*) ODU professor Igloria traces journeys made by Filipinos in the global diaspora that began since the encounter with European and American colonial power through poems that create links of sympathetic human understanding, even as they revisit difficult histories and pose necessary questions about place, power, displacement, nostalgia, beauty, and human resilience in conditions of alienation and duress.



Metal Clay Origami Jewelry

(*Sara Jayne Cole*) Combining the allure of metal clay jewelry with the three-dimensional dynamism of origami, the pieces in this guide from noted artist Sara Jayne Cole are riveting. Cole offers up the know-how to fold metal clay paper sheets using surprisingly easy techniques, and a gallery of inspirational work is sure to have crafters of all skill levels eager to start on the 25 contemporary projects.



Midnight in Peking: How the Murder of a Young Englishwoman Haunted the Last Days of Old China

(*Paul French*) Chronicles the efforts of two detectives--one British and one Chinese--as they raced to find an Englishwoman's killer in 1937 before the Japanese invasion of Peking.

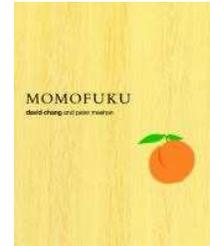
The Miracle: The Epic Story of Asia's Quest for Wealth

(*Michael Schuman*) Spanning nine countries, filled with heroic tales of bold decisions and self-sacrifice, and probing vast historical undercurrents, "The Miracle" offers a behind-the-scenes look at the events that shaped Asia's economic ascent.



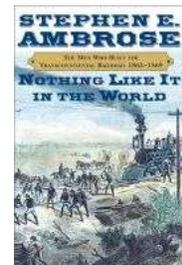
Momofuku

(*David Chang and Peter Meehan*) Chef David Chang uses bold Asian flavors and impeccable ingredients to master the humble ramen noodle, and his thorough devotion to pork to create a cookbook based on the cuisine at his New York restaurant Momofuku Noodle Bar, Momofuku Ssäm Bar, Mä Pace, Momofuku Milk Bar and Momofuku Kop. *Momofuku* is both the story and the recipes (many are very challenging) behind the cuisine that has built his reputation as a bad-boy celebrity chef.



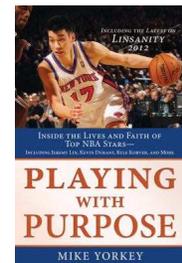
Nothing Like It in the World: The Men Who Built the Transcontinental Railroad, 1863-1869

(*Stephen E. Ambrose*) This is the story of the men who built the transcontinental railroad -- the investors who risked their businesses and money; the enlightened politicians who understood its importance; the engineers and surveyors who risked, and lost, their lives; and the Irish and Chinese immigrants, the defeated Confederate soldiers, and the other laborers who did the backbreaking and dangerous work on the tracks.



Playing With Purpose: Inside the Lives and Faith of Top NBA Stars--Including Jeremy Lin, Kevin Durant, Kyle Korver, and More!

(*Mike Yorkey*) Examines the playing careers of several NBA stars, including Jeremy Lin, and discusses how their lives and careers have been influenced by their Christian faith

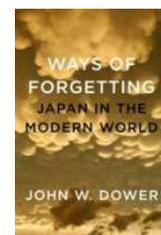


The Translator's Diary

(*Jon Pineda*) This book reminds us that one of poetry's necessary functions is translation -- of literal experience and abstract emotion, the personal and shared -- where truth "never survives its translation." Winner of the 2007 Green Rose Prize in Poetry.

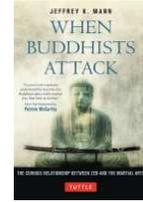
Ways of Forgetting, Ways of Remembering: Japan in the Modern World

(*John W. Dower*) These new reflections by a leading historian on modern Japan look at key 20th century moments in relations between the US and Japan, focusing on Japanese perceptions of the US: how the Japanese saw Hiroshima, American occupation, changes in their lives, and attitudes towards their war crimes.



When Buddhists Attack: The Curious Relationship Between Zen and the Martial Arts

(*Jeffrey K. Mann*) Film, television and popular fiction have long exploited the image of the serene Buddhist monk who is master of the deadly craft of hand-to-hand combat. While these media overly romanticize the relationship between a philosophy of non-violence and the art of fighting, *When Buddhists Attack* shows this link to be nevertheless real, even natural.

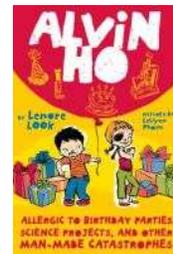


JUVENILE & YOUNG ADULT FICTION

Written for children and teens/young adults (YA), the following selected fiction is to inform 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 Dead Bodies, Funerals, and Other Fatal Circumstances

(*Lenore Look; ill. by LeUyen Pham*) Everyone's favorite neurotic second grader is back, in the most touching Alvin Ho book in the Alvin Ho series, Alvin is facing something truly scary: the idea that someone he loves might die. When Alvin's grandfather loses his best friend, Alvin volunteers to go with him to the funeral. The authors touch on a more serious subject in this Alvin book, but it's still filled with the same humor and wild antics fans have come to expect from the series.



Blood Ninja III: The Betrayal of the Living (YA)

(*Nick Jake*) In sixteenth-century Japan, Taro enlists his friends to help vanquish a dragon in hopes of winning a reward that would allow him to marry Hana, but he also faces surprisingly difficult obstacles as Kenji Kira raises the dead against him and his own flesh and blood betrays him.



A Bride's Story (YA)

(*Kaoru Mori*) In this fourth book in the series, this tale of life on the nineteenth-century Silk Road turns westward, following Englishman Mr. Smith on his long journey to Ankara. Passing through a fishing village along the Aral Sea, Smith and his guide encounter a pair of spirited young girls named Laila and Leily -- identical twins who are fishing not for sturgeon, but for husbands! Despite their efforts to find two wealthy, healthy, and handsome brothers to wed, Laila and Leily's plans generally only land them in loads of trouble.



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.

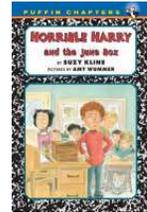
Hikaru no Go: China vs. Japan

(*Yumi Hotta*) The Hokuto Cup games are about to begin, and Hikaru gets caught up in some misunderstandings that make it difficult for him to concentrate on go. In the first match between Japan and China he starts out poorly and seems well on the way to a resounding defeat. Only by getting a tight grip on himself can he possibly make a showing, but that’s far easier said than done! Series reads right to left.



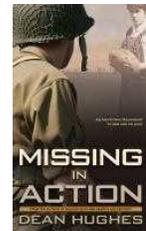
Horrible Harry and the June Box

(*Suzy Kline*) When the origami pig that Song Lee made for her grandmother as a birthday present is seized by a substitute teacher, the usually well-behaved third-grader breaks a classroom rule to rescue it from the “June Box.”



The Latte Rebellion

(*Sarah Jamila Stevenson*) When high school senior Asha Jamison is called a “towel head” at a pool party, she and her best friend Carey start a club to raise awareness of mixed-race students that soon sweeps the country, but the hubbub puts her Ivy League dreams, friendship, and beliefs to the test.

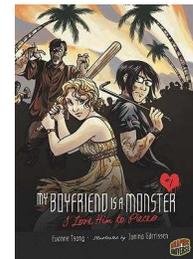


Missing in Action (YA)

(*Dean Hughes*) While his father is missing in action during World War II, 12-year-old Jay moves with his mother to Utah, where he sees prejudice from both sides, as a part-Navajo himself, and through a friendship with Ken, a Japanese American boy from the nearby internment camp.

My Boyfriend Is a Monster. #1, I Love Him to Pieces ... (YA)

(*Evonne Tsang; ill. by Janina Görrissen*) St. Petersburg High school juniors Dicey Bell, a baseball star, and Jack Chen, who loves science and role-playing games, discover a mutual attraction when paired for a project, but on their first date, a zombie-producing fungus sends them on the run.



Sumo (YA)

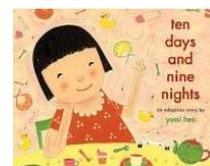
(*Thien Pham*) Scott, abandoned by his girlfriend and having lost his dream of playing professional football, is offered a position in Japanese sumo training “stable,” where he seems to find himself again.

Sylvia & Aki

(*Winifred Conkling*) At the start of World War II, Japanese-American third-grader Aki and her family are sent to an internment camp in Poston, Arizona, while Mexican-American third-grader Sylvia’s family leases their Orange County, California, farm and begins a fight to stop school segregation. Readers will be moved by this history-based novel whose alternating chapters tell the story from each girl’s point of view.

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.



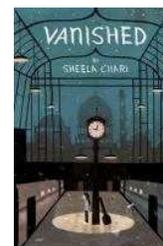
Ties That Bind, Ties That Break: A Novel (YA)

(*Lensey Namioka*) Not quite five years old in 1911 -- a time of revolution and transformation in China -- Third Sister Ailin rebels against the torturous tradition of foot binding. She feels no remorse when this causes the family of her intended husband to break the marriage agreement. But as she enters adolescence, Ailin realizes for the first time how powerless a girl of good family with no prospect of marriage is in Chinese society. On the YALSA Top Ten Best Books for 2000 list.



Vanished

(*Sheela Chari*) Eleven-year-old Neela must solve the mystery when her beautiful but cursed veena, a classical Indian musical instrument, goes missing. Sheela Chari's debut novel is a finely tuned story of coincidence and fate, trust and deceit, music and mystery.

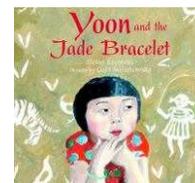


Yoko Writes Her Name

(*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.

Yoon and the Jade Bracelet

(*Helen Recorvits; ill. by Gabi Swiatkowska*) Although she really would have liked a jump rope for her birthday, Yoon is happy to receive a Korean picture book and a jade bracelet passed down from her grandmother, and when she wears the bracelet to school it seems as if her wish for a jump rope and a friend is about to come true.



JUNENILE & 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.

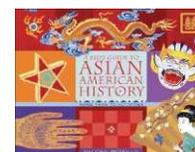
The Chinese

(*C.J. Shane, ed.*) This is a collection of essays in the Coming to America series describing the conditions in China that lead to major migration to the United States, life in America after the immigrants arrived, the slow assimilation into American culture, and describing the experiences of several Chinese Americans. Other titles in the series include *The Vietnamese* and *The West Indian-American Experience*.



A Kid's Guide to Asian American History: More Than 70 Activities

(*Valerie Patrillo*) Hands-on activities, games, and crafts introduce children to the diversity of Asian American cultures and teach them about the people, experiences, and events that have shaped Asian American history. This book is broken down into sections covering American descendants from various Asian countries, including China, Japan, Korea, Philippines, India, Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia. For ages 7 to 9.

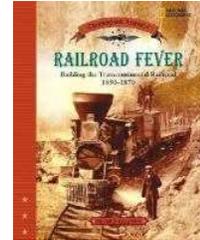


The Korean Americans

(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.

Railroad Fever: Building the Transcontinental Railroad, 1830-1870

(Monica Halpern) Though construction problems and hard times confronted them, American workers, Chinese immigrants, and former slaves pounded away through the rough geography of the western U.S., paving a path for the new train that would change American life.



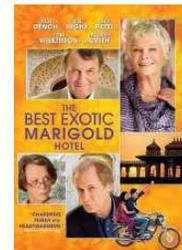
DVDs

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)

The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel

New hotel manager Sunny Kapoor welcomes seven cash-strapped seniors who decide to “outsource” their retirement to a resort in far-off India. Each is overwhelmed by the city of Jaipur, Rajasthan in northern India, which is itself a character. Friendship and romance blossom in the most unexpected ways as Sunny tries to save the hotel from demolition.



The Cats of Mirikitani

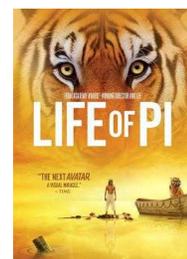
Eighty-year-old Jimmy Mirikitani survived the trauma of WWII internment camps, Hiroshima, and homelessness by creating art. But when 9/11 threatens his life on the New York City streets, a local filmmaker brings him to her home and the two embark on a journey to confront Jimmy’s painful past. An intimate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

The Joy Luck Club

The stories of four native-born Chinese women and their American-born daughters, showing the influence each has on the others’ lives, and how they are the same and different. The screenplay was written by the original novel’s author, Amy Tan.

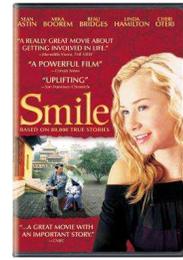
Life of Pi

Possessing encyclopedia-like intelligence, unusual zookeeper’s son Pi Patel sets sail for America, but when the ship sinks, he escapes on a life boat and is lost at sea with a dwindling number of animals until only he and a hungry Bengal tiger remain. Based on the novel of the same title by Martel Yann.



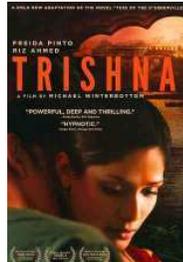
Smile (YA)

Lin resides in a world of quiet hardship in rural China, longing to live without fear or shame. Katie lives in a world of pampered ease in Malibu and strives for something new and challenging in her life. When these two worlds come together, through a charity called Doctor's Gift (based on Operation Smile), their lives are forever changed. Smile is an uplifting story powerfully told and beautifully acted that will inspire your soul and warm your heart.



Trishna

Trishna lives with her family in a village in Rajasthan and works in a resort to help pay the family bills. Jay is the wealthy son of a property developer. When Jay takes up managing resorts, he meets Trishna and wins her affection. They move to Mumbai, but problems arise when his deep family bond threatens their bliss.



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.]

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.

Kids Infobits –Meet research needs of elementary students in a developmentally appropriate graphic interface that is fun to explore. Use a subject based topic tree or enter keywords for searching through full text magazines, newspapers and reference content in areas of geography, history, biography, sports, the arts, technology, and science.

Religion and Philosophy Collection contains 1,415,225 **articles** updated as recently as March 5, 2013. All articles have been published between 1980 and 2013. Use search terms for specific religions or use a geographic location and select from magazines, academic journals, news articles, books, video, and images.

World Book Online

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

WEBSITES

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

Biography

www.biography.com

From A&E Television Network. Includes 15,000 cross-referenced biographies (provided by the Cambridge Biographical Encyclopedia). Also provides the full text of selected opening chapters and reviews from best selling biographies, and schedules of upcoming episodes of the Biography television program.

Library of Congress

<http://asianpacificheritage.gov>

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

PBS: Ancestors in the Americas

www.pbs.org/ancestorsintheamericas/

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

Smithsonian Asian Pacific American Programs

<http://apa.si.edu>

Asian Pacific American History and Culture

The Smithsonian Institution

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 and students.

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

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

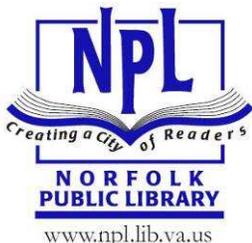
www.census.gov/population/www/socdemo/race/api.html

Demographic information about Asian Pacific Americans from the U.S. Census.

U.S. Department of Defense

[/www.defense.gov/home/features/2012/0512_asianheritage/](http://www.defense.gov/home/features/2012/0512_asianheritage/)

Information about Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders who have served our nation through military service.



Norfolk Public Library
(757) 664-READ
www.npl.lib.va.us