

Asian-Pacific American Heritage Month Booklist May 2014



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.

[The Garden of Evening Mists: A Novel](#)

(*Twan Eng Tan*) Malaya, 1951. Yun Ling Teoh, the scarred lone survivor of a brutal Japanese wartime camp, seeks solace among the jungle-fringed tea plantations of Cameron Highlands. There she discovers Yugiri, the only Japanese garden in Malaya, and its owner and creator, the enigmatic Aritomo, exiled former gardener of the emperor of Japan. Despite her hatred of the Japanese, Yun Ling seeks to engage Aritomo to create a garden in memory of her sister, who died in the camp. Winner of the 2012 Man Asian Literary Prize. [\(Also available as an audiobook\)](#)



[A Girl like You: A Novel](#)

(*Maureen Lindley*) Forced to move with her Japanese mother to an internment camp after her white father dies at Pearl Harbor, Satomi endures brutal conditions and disease while forging dubious relationships and coming to terms with her identity.



[The Roving Tree](#)

(*Elsie Augustave*) Set between the two worlds of contemporary suburban America and Haiti under Papa Doc's rule, Iris Odys, adopted by a white American couple at age five, struggles as an adult to recapture her Haitian heritage and personal history.



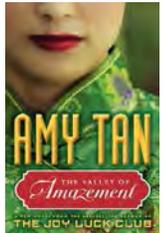
A True Novel

(*Minae Mizumura*) *A True Novel* begins in New York in the 1960s, where we meet Taro, a relentlessly ambitious Japanese immigrant trying to make his fortune. Flashbacks and multilayered stories reveal his life: an impoverished upbringing as an orphan, his eventual rise to wealth and success--despite racial and class prejudice--and an obsession with a girl from an affluent family that has haunted him all his life. *A True Novel* then widens into an examination of Japan's westernization and the emergence of a middle class. The winner of Japan's prestigious Yomiuri Literature Prize, Mizumura has written a beautiful novel, with love at its core that reveals, above all, the power of storytelling.



The Valley of Amazement

(*Amy Tan*) bestselling author of *The Joy Luck Club* Amy Tan brings us her latest novel spanning 40 years and two continents: a sweeping, evocative epic of two women's intertwined fates and their search for identity—from the lavish parlors of Shanghai courtesans to the fog-shrouded mountains of a remote Chinese village.

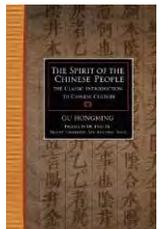


ADULT NONFICTION

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.

*The Spirit of the Chinese People: The Classic Introduction to Chinese Culture

(*Hongming Gu*) *The Spirit of the Chinese People* is a collection of essays originally published in English early in the Twentieth century by Gu Hongming as a fundamental presentation of the people and culture of China. In it he compared the Chinese with Americans, British, French, and Germans and described the virtues gained from the country's traditional Confucian philosophy and how Confucianism might be used by Westerners to solve problems within their own countries.



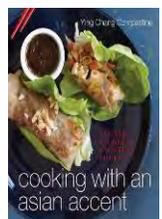
*Recipes from My Home Kitchen: Asian and American Comfort Food from the Winner of Master Chef Season 3

(*Christine Ha*) Provides comfort food recipes by the legally blind Master Chef Champion, offering insight into how the loss of her sight compelled her to learn to cook by sense, drawing on her experiences with both Vietnamese and American culinary cultures.



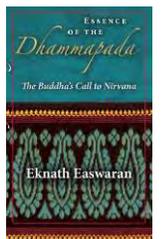
*Cooking With an Asian Accent: Eastern Wisdom in a Western Kitchen

(*Compestine, Ying Chang*) In *Cooking with an Asian Accent*, award-winning author Ying Compestine, a nationally renowned authority on Asian culture and cuisine, reveals how to make delicious home-cooked meals that nourish the senses and the soul using accessible ingredients, simple preparations, and thrilling flavors.



*Essence of the Dhammapada: the Buddha's Call to Nirvana

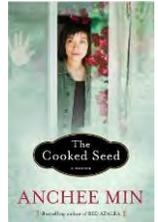
(*Easwaran Eknath*) The translator of the best-selling edition of the *Dhammapada*, a well-known teacher of meditation, presents this scripture as a guidebook for all spiritual seekers, Buddhist and non-Buddhist alike. New, lively, authoritative explanation of core Buddhist themes, illustrated with stories of the Buddha's life and contemporary examples Eknath Easwaran.



*Cooked Seed: A Memoir

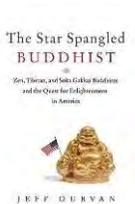
(*Anchee Min*) Traces the author's journey from the painful deprivations of her homeland to the sudden bounty of the United States, where she endured five jobs, crime, and a painful marriage before the birth of a daughter inspired her writing career.

(Also available as an eBook) and (sound recording)



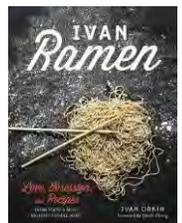
*The Star Spangled Buddhist: Zen, Tibetan, and Soka Gakkai Buddhism and the Guest for Enlightenment in America

(*Jeff Ourvan*) Approximately four million Americans claim to be Buddhist. Moreover, hundreds of thousands of Americans of various faiths read about Buddhism, are interested in its philosophical tenets, or fashionably view themselves as Buddhists. The Star Spangled Buddhist is a provocative look at these American Buddhists through their three largest movements in the United States: the Soka Gakkai International, Tibetan/Vajrayana Buddhism, and Zen Buddhism. (Also available as an eBook)



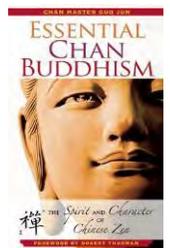
*Ivan Ramen: Love, Obsession, and Recipes from Tokyo's Most Unlikely Noodle Joint

(*Ivan Orkin*) In 2007, Orkin, a middle-aged Jewish guy from Long Island, did something crazy. In the food-zealous, insular megalopolis of Tokyo, Ivan opened a ramen shop. He was a gaijin (foreigner), trying to make his name in a place that is fiercely opinionated about ramen. At first, customers came because they were curious, but word spread quickly about Ivan's handmade noodles, clean and complex broth, and thoughtfully prepared toppings. Soon enough, Ivan became a celebrity--a fixture of Japanese TV programs and the face of his own best-selling brand of instant ramen. Ivan opened a second location in Tokyo, and has now returned to New York City to open his first US branch.



*Essential Chan Buddhism: The Character and Spirit of Chinese Zen

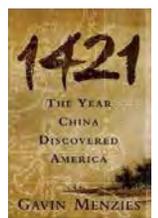
(*Jun Guo*) Essential Chan Buddhism is the rare unearthing of an ancient and remarkable Chinese spiritual tradition. Master Guo Jun speaks through hard-won wisdom on Chan's spiritual themes familiar to Western readers, such as mindfulness and relaxation in meditation, as well as profound, simply expressed teachings and insightful explorations of religious commitment. Essential Chan Buddhism filters formal spiritual practices through the lens of mundane and everyday life activities.



1421: The Year China Discovered America

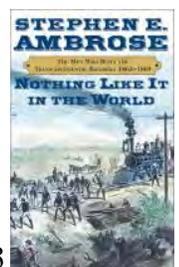
(*Gavin Menzies*) Based on 15 years of in-depth research, "1421" traces the voyages of an extraordinary fleet of Chinese ships who actually charted America 70 years before Columbus, established a number of subsequently lost colonies in the Caribbean, circumnavigated the globe, desalinated water, and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

The movie is also available on DVD



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;



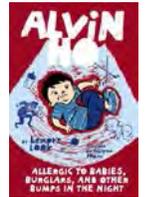
and the Irish and Chinese immigrants, the defeated Confederate soldiers, and the other laborers who did the backbreaking and dangerous work on the tracks.

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 Babies, Burglars, and Other Bumps in the Night

(*Lenore Look; ill. by LeUyen Pham*) Here is the fifth book in the beloved and hilarious Alvin Ho chapter book series, which has been compared to *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* and is perfect for beginning and reluctant readers. When fearful seven-year-old Alvin Ho learns that his mother is expecting a baby, he develops a sympathetic pregnancy--adding to his worry about the burglar who is targeting Concord, Massachusetts.



American Born Chinese (YA)

(*Gene Luen Yang*) This graphic novel alternates three interrelated stories about the problems of young Chinese Americans trying to participate in the popular culture. The book was the first graphic novel nominated for a National Book Award. Yang's 2013 books *Boxers* and *Saints*, depicting the story of the Chinese anti-foreign and anti-Christian Boxer Rebellion of 1898-1900, were together a National Book Award finalist.



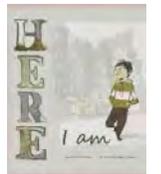
The Counterfeit Family Tree of Vee Crawford-Wong

(*L.Tam Holland*) Vee's history assignment is to create a family tree, but he doesn't know anything about his family beyond his parents' generation.



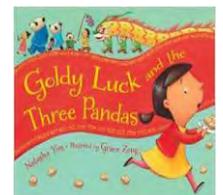
Here I Am

(*Patti Kim*) Newly arrived from their faraway homeland, a boy and his family enter into the lights, noise, and traffic of a busy American city. The language is unfamiliar. Food, habits, games, and gestures are puzzling. They boy clings tightly to his special keepsake from home and wonders how he will find his way. How will he once again become the happy, confident kid he used to be? Walk in his shoes as he takes the first tentative steps toward discovering joy in his new world.



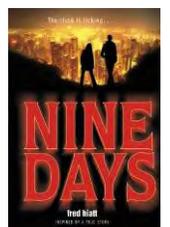
Goldy Luck and the Three Pandas

(*Natasha Yim*) One Chinese New Year, her mother sends Goldy Luck to the pandas next door with a plate of turnip cakes, but the pandas are out and disaster follows. Includes a recipe for turnip cakes and an explanation of Chinese New Year.



Nine Days

(*Fred Hiatt*) fast-paced contemporary thriller in the vein of James Patterson and Anthony Horowitz set against the bustling backdrop of Hong Kong, Vietnam, and the border of China. This heart-pounding adventure takes place as two teens, an American teenage boy and his friend, a Chinese girl from his Washington, DC-area high school,



must find her father who has been kidnapped--and they only have nine days. Although the characters in the novel are fictionalized, they are based on a real Chinese family who were part of the Chinese Democracy Movement and inspired this story.

[\(Also available as an eBook\)](#)

Red Kite, Blue Kite

(Ji-li Jiang) When Tai Shan and his father, Baba, are separated during China's Cultural Revolution, they are able to stay close by greeting one another every day with flying kites until Baba, like the kites, is free. Includes historical notes.

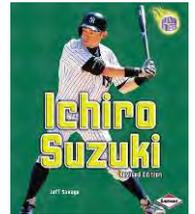


JUNENILE & YOUNG ADULT NONFICTION

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.

Ichiro Suzuki

(Jeff Savage) Outfielder Ichiro Suzuki has been one of Major League Baseball's (MLB) best players for more than ten years. But Ichiro was a star in Japan long before he came to the United States. When he joined the Seattle Mariners in 2001, Ichiro became one of the most famous athletes in the world. He also proved he was one of the best in the world when he notched his 2,500th MLB hit in 2012. Ichiro joined the New York Yankees during the 2012 season, and his star has never shined more brightly



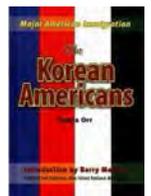
A Kid's Guide to Asian American History: More Than 70 Activities

(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.



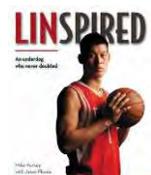
The Korean Americans

(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.



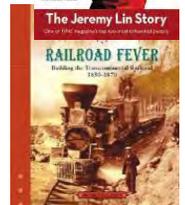
Linspired: The Jeremy Lin Story

(Mike Yorkey and Jesse Florea) Tells the story of Jeremy Lin, the Taiwanese-American basketball player who surprised the world with his skills in spectacular form when he went from bench-warmer to superstar for the New York Knicks, and later the Houston Rockets.



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.

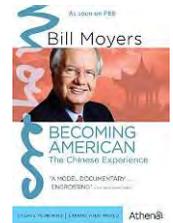


DVDs

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)

Becoming American: the Chinese experience

In this Emmy-nominated documentary, Bill Moyers tells the remarkable history of Chinese Americans, from the first wave of immigration in the 1850s to the present day. Through personal narratives and interviews with historians, Moyers recounts how they ventured, suffered, endured, and eventually prevailed

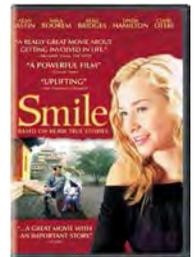


The Cats of Mirikitani

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

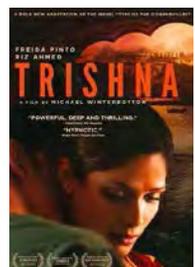
Smile (YA)

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 topical articles published between 1980 and 2011. 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. Highlight's this year's exhibit "Beyond Bollywood: Indian Americans Shape the Nation" through August 16, 2014 at the National Museum of Natural History and online.

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

<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

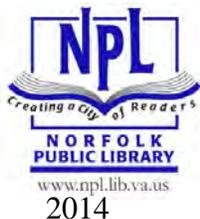
<http://www.census.gov>

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