

BRINGING YOU THE DIVERSITY MOMENT:

At our last monthly OCHRS meeting we introduced you to the diversity moment. We will be bringing you information about some aspect of diversity. You will be given support documentation so you can research the subject further if you wish to do so.

Are you aware that May is National Asian-Pacific Heritage Month?

FROM <http://www.infoplease.com/spot/asianintro1.html> you might learn . . . May is Asian Pacific American (APA) Heritage Month—a celebration of Asians and Pacific Islanders in the United States. Much like [Black History](#) and [Women's History](#) celebrations, APA Heritage Month originated in a congressional bill.

Congressional Bills Establish Celebration - In June 1977, Representatives Frank Horton of New York and [Norman Y. Mineta](#) of California introduced a House resolution that called upon the president to proclaim the first ten days of May as Asian/Pacific Heritage Week. The following month, senators [Daniel Inouye](#) and Spark Matsunaga introduced a similar bill in the Senate. Both were passed. On October 5, 1978, President [Jimmy Carter](#) signed a Joint Resolution designating the annual celebration.

In May 1990, Asian Pacific American Week Becomes Month-long Celebration - the holiday was expanded further when President [George H. W. Bush](#) designated May to be Asian Pacific American Heritage Month. May was chosen to commemorate the immigration of the first Japanese to the United States on May 7, 1843, and to mark the anniversary of the completion of the [transcontinental railroad](#) on May 10, 1869. The majority of the workers who laid the tracks were Chinese immigrants.

Asian Pacific American Heritage Month is celebrated with community festivals, government-sponsored activities, and educational activities for students. This year's theme is "**Freedom for All—A Nation We Call Our Own.**"

Some interesting facts about Asian-Americans from GM:

- 60% have an income of \$50K+; highest median average
- 70% of Asian Americans are foreign born
- High entrepreneurship rate; 10,500 Asian companies for every 100,000 Asian adults
- \$229 billion in spending annually
- Highest rate of internet penetration (56.8%)

Some additional resources:

Book: *Asian Americans: Experiences and Perspectives* by Timothy Fong

Video: *Becoming American: The Chinese Experience*, PBS

Site: pbs.org/becomingamerican/

Trivia Question: Do you know anything about Angel Island?

PLEASE SHARE ANY OF YOUR EXPERIENCES OR THOUGHTS ON THE INDEX CARD.

Thank you, Joy Pollock, Rene Rogers and Kathleen Lyons