



PRESENTS THE 2022 ANNUAL
AAPI HERITAGE MONTH NEWSLETTER



Members



Ryan Buckner



Luyao Chen



Nisha Ellis



Craig Furuta



Glenise Moore



Roberto Rivera



Dante' Taylor



Brandon Walker

Contents

Why is Celebrating AAPI Month Important? Remembering and Honoring History5

Famous Figures in AAPI History9

AAPI Voices of Schellman13

What is AAPI Heritage Month?

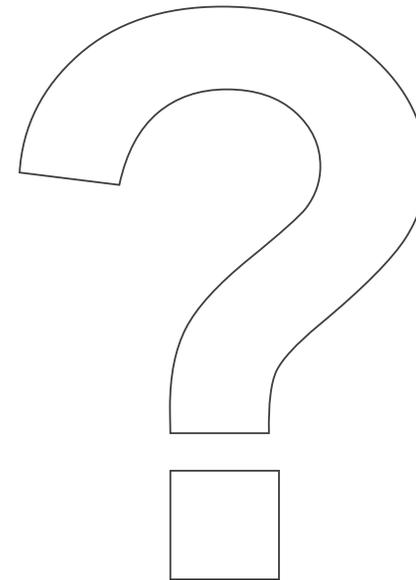
Celebrated in May, Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) Heritage Month recognizes the contributions and influence of Asian Americans and Pacific Islander Americans to the history, culture, and achievements of the United States.

Why May? Two reasons:

- The first Japanese immigrant to the U.S. arrived on May 7, 1843.
- The First Transcontinental Railroad was completed on May 10, 1869, the construction of which used mainly Chinese labor.

AAPI heritage in America was initially celebrated for just the first 10 days in May after President Jimmy Carter signed HR 1007 on October 5, 1978. It was later extended to a month in 1990 by President George H.W. Bush.

In 2022, the AAPI theme is “Advancing Leaders Through Collaboration.”



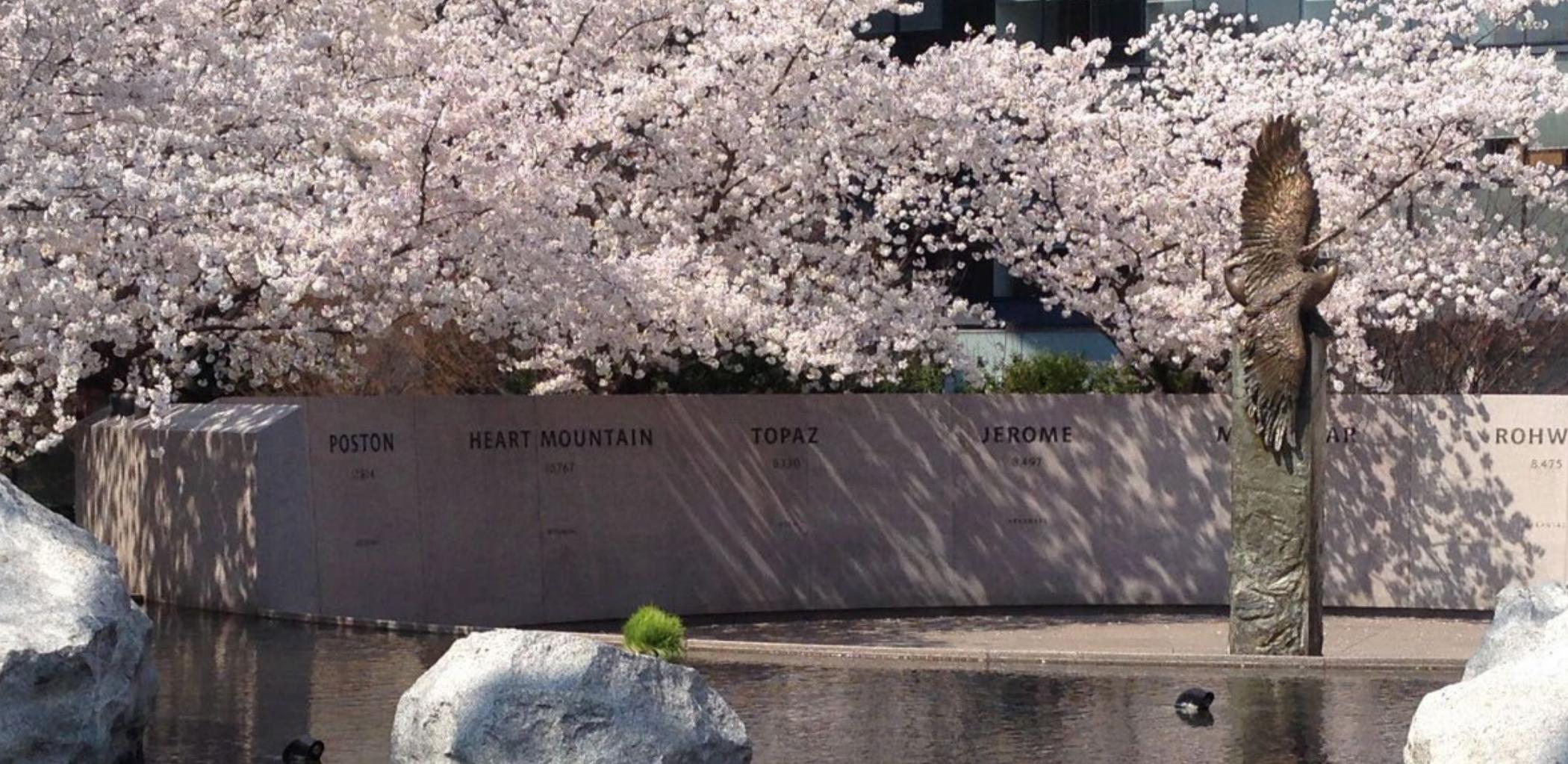
Why is Celebrating AAPI Month Important? Remembering & Honoring History

by Craig Futura



In the complete history of America, the visibility of the Asian American and Pacific Islander experience has largely been muted. But we now have several public monuments to provide a broader viewpoint on our shared American experience.

That includes the Japanese American Memorial to Patriotism During World War II, located only a few blocks away from the United States Capitol and the U.S. Supreme Court. This monument provides a quiet, reflective area that allows visitors to recall the sacrifices made by the Japanese American community during WWII. These sacrifices were not only made by the Japanese men serving in the U.S. military in the European theater, but also by the 120,000 civilian men, women, and children who were incarcerated at the time. In violation of America's constitution, the government granted them no due process.



This memorial park features a sculpture of two golden cranes—representing peace—and a water space. Large concrete panels document the names of the Japanese American “camps” that held those unjustly incarcerated, the number of internees at each camp, as well as the names of the Japanese American men who died in defense of the values of our constitution and American ideals while their families were incarcerated in those camps.

Living in D.C., I visit this park frequently to make sure my daughter understands her family's story in America. She has one great uncle who served with distinction in the Pacific theater as a translator for the U.S. Marine Corps and U.S. Army. Her great grandparents, great uncles and aunts, and grandfather were all interned in various camps.

I want her to have a sense of pride and place knowing that she is an important part of our American society and that she has a long family history supporting our American democracy. For her and other fellow Americans out there, AAPI Month provides a specific and important time to recognize this history.

Famous Figures in AAPI History

(Added in partnership with )

Amy Tan

[Amy Tan](#) was born in Oakland, California to immigrant parents from China. She split her time growing up between California and Switzerland and attended five colleges. After graduating, Tan received her B.A. with a double major in English and Linguistics, followed by her M.A. in Linguistics.

At first, she worked as a language development specialist serving developmentally disabled children. She later became a director for a demonstration project funded by the U.S. Department of Education before going on to become a successful freelance business writer in 1987.

On a visit to China with her mother, she met her two half-sisters for the first time. That meeting inspired part of her first, highly acclaimed novel, *The Joy Luck Club*, which focuses on the experiences of four Chinese mothers, their Chinese American daughters, and the struggles of the two cultures and generations to relate to each other.

Tan went on to write a second novel, *The Kitchen God's Wife*, which concerns a woman who grew up in China and her relationship with her Americanized daughter.



Patsy Matsu Takemoto Mink

[Patsy Matsu Takemoto Mink](#) was an attorney and politician from the state of Hawaii. She's more famously known as the first woman of color and first Asian-American woman elected to Congress in 1964. Mink co-authored the groundbreaking, Title IX Amendment of the Higher Education Act in 1972, which was later renamed the Patsy T. Mink Equal Opportunity in Education Act.

While working in Hawaii, she fought to change many of the Hawaiian territorial laws to allow for more rights and opportunities for natives. Her contributions garnered enough attention to where she spoke at the 1960 Democratic National Convention. She would win her own seat in Congress four years later.

During her first six terms as a member of the House, Mink introduced the first comprehensive initiatives under the Early Childhood Education Act, including the first federal child-care bill. She also worked on the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965. In 1970, she became the first person to oppose a Supreme Court nominee on the basis of discrimination against women. Two years later, she became the first East Asian-American woman to seek the presidential nomination of the Democratic Party.

Mink returned to the House of Representatives in 1990 where she served a second six-term stint. She continued her work on legislation of importance to women, children, immigrants, and minorities until her death in 2002.



Sunita Williams

[Sunita Williams](#) was an American astronaut who completed two flights to the International Space Station (ISS). She was the second American astronaut of Indian heritage to go into space, after Kalpana Chawla.

Before becoming an astronaut, she entered the U.S. Naval Academy at Annapolis, MD in 1983. After completing aviator training and combat helicopter training, she flew support missions during the Persian Gulf War as well as relief missions during Hurricane Andrew in 1992.

Williams obtained her master's in science in engineering management from the Florida Institute of Technology in 1995 and later entered astronaut training in 1998. In 2006, Williams flew aboard the space shuttle Discovery on a mission to the ISS. During her time on the space station, she made four spacewalks and spent 195 days in space, totaling more than 29 hours outside of the spacecraft. Both durations were records for women in space until Samantha Cristoforetti broke the latter record.

Williams flew to the ISS again in 2012 and spent 127 days working again as a flight engineer. During that time, she eventually became the commander of Expedition 33. Combined, her two spaceflights lasted more than 321 days, which ranks her second for the most time spent in space by a woman.



AAPI Voices of Schellman

How did you get into IT Audit?

Was there anyone that helped you advance your career?

Avani Desai, CEO

When you come from an Indian family, the stereotypes all say that you're probably predestined to be a doctor or engineer. And while it's true that I have always enjoyed tinkering—even at a young age—when I got to college, I became more intrigued with how technology can intersect with business.

I focused on computer science and decided my real love was information security, which I then somehow segued into working for a “Big 4” accounting firm. Stereotypes aside, it wasn't at all how I would have predicted things to go. But when I think back, everything that I consider exciting and attractive in a potential job—solving problems, data analysis, encouraging collaboration for decision-making—is what I've found.



Avani Desai, CEO (cont.)

Throughout my career, I've had several mentors and sponsors, but when I look back at the one person who inspired me to be a leader, I would say my mom. In her 20s, with just \$50 in her pocket, she left a familiar and more comfortable life in India to come to the United States toting two young daughters. Growing up, I remember how she worked long hours of manual labor to make sure her family had food on the table. But she never wavered as a pillar of reassurance, always insisting to my dad that they'd made the right decision to leave all they knew behind.

I always look back in awe of the sacrifice my mother made and the strength she displayed. She's among all the other immigrant women who have braved the impossible to change the destiny of their children's lives. They all live as constant motivation for me to do better and continue to prove to her that her hardships were worth it.

Angel Wang, Associate

After graduating from UT Dallas with two master's degrees, I was looking for audit positions. I'd first heard about IT audit at events held by the Institute of Internal Audit at UT Dallas. From my past internship experience, I knew that I enjoyed finding issues and working on different projects, so the field seemed like the right fit.

While applying around, I learned about Schellman—everything I read was encouraging, and so I was very happy when I got an interview. One of the managers from the firm reached out to me during the process. He spoke to me about what working for IT audit was like and answered all my questions in detail, helping me gain a deeper understanding at that time.

Then, I took the job and started my career in the Associate Program at Schellman during which I learned from the best. I really appreciate Ryan Buckner, Adam Bush, and John Chang for providing lectures on SOC reporting, audit methodology, IT infrastructure knowledge, and audit practice. All their expertise helped me build a solid foundation for my future work. As I go through my daily tasks even now, I use all the knowledge and preparation they shared with me during the program to help me regularly improve.





Celebrate AAPI Heritage Month