

# Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders Heritage Month

May is celebrated as Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders Heritage Month. Asian/Pacific Americans are broadly understood to have ethnic ties to countries in the Asian continent and the Pacific Islands of Melanesia, Micronesia and Polynesia.<sup>1</sup> Their diverse cultures, languages, traditions and histories come from more than 40 countries that comprise the majority of the world's population.<sup>2</sup>

President Jimmy Carter signed a law designating the first seven days of May as Asian/Pacific American Heritage week--beginning in 1979. Presidents passed annual proclamations for the celebration until 1990 when Congress passed a law extending the observance until the end of May. Originally called "Asian Pacific American Heritage Month," the observance is widely known as "Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders Heritage Month."<sup>1</sup>

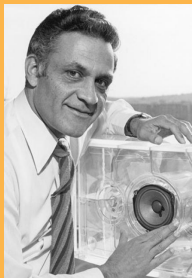
Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders have made, and continue to make, contributions to the U.S., of which some are listed below:



Makoto Hagiwara was the landscape designer for the Japanese Tea Garden in San Francisco's Golden Gate Park--a 5-acre site. It is one of the city's most valued public destinations.



Minoru Yamasaki and Emery Roth designed the World Trade Center Towers in New York. The Towers were constructed in 1970. Yamasaki also designed San Francisco's Japanese Cultural Trade Center--which opened in 1968.



Amar Bose was an acoustic engineer who founded Bose Corporation in 1994. He was born, to a Bengali (Indian) father and a French/German ancestry mother, in Pennsylvania.



Chad Hurley (Pennsylvanian); Steven Shih Chen (Taiwan); and Jawed Karim (Bangladeshi-German) were co-creators of YouTube. In 1994, Chih-Yuan Yang co-founded Yahoo, Inc. and was former CEO of the company.



Pedro Flores built the first yo-yo factory in the U.S. in 1928. Played with for hundreds of years in the Philippines, the yo-yo was previously known as the bandalore.



Yoshiro Taniguchi designed the Peace Pagoda which is 100 feet high located in the southwestern corner of Peace Plaza in San Francisco's Japantown.

## LISTED BELOW ARE SOME OF THE ASIAN CONTINENT AND PACIFIC ISLAND COUNTRIES:

Bangladesh ~ Bhutan ~ Brunei ~ Cambodia ~ China ~ Indonesia ~ Japan ~ Laos ~ Malaysia ~ Maldives ~ Melanesia ~ Micronesia ~ Mongolia ~ Myanmar (formerly Burma) ~ Nepal ~ North Korea ~ Pakistan ~ Philippines ~ Polynesia ~ Singapore ~ South Korea ~ Sri Lanka ~ Taiwan ~ Thailand ~ Timor-Leste ~ Vietnam



### SOURCES:

- <https://www.britannica.com/story/celebrating-asian-americans-and-pacific-islanders>
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