In the United States, the month of May is an annual recognition and celebration of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (AAPI) and Jewish Americans.

We take this opportunity to condemn the escalating violence and ongoing harassment directed at AAPI and the Jewish community, and we stand in solidarity with community leaders, students, educators, and audiences who are actively engaged in anti-racist action. This newsletter pays tribute to the achievements and contributions of the AAPI and Jewish community to American history, art, and culture.

In 2006, George W. Bush proclaimed May as Jewish American Heritage Month. The announcement served as the crowning achievement in a concerted effort by American Jewish leaders to introduce resolutions in both the United States Senate and the House urging the President to proclaim a month specifically recognizing the more than 360-year history of Jews in America and their contributions to the United States.

As we do every month, we invite you to use the Diversity Awareness Calendar to celebrate, raise awareness, and learn more about our shared histories.

– Dr. Lisa Biagas
Celebrating such a rich tapestry of cultures, traditions, and histories requires more than just one newsletter. Throughout the month of May, we will continue sharing information about AAPI communities through our Monday AAPI Briefs. These micro-newsletters will allow us to share information about AAPI communities, locate resources to support and learn more about anti-Asian violence, promote local businesses impacted by the pandemic and xenophobia, highlight the AAPI artists in our collection, and explore PAFA’s history.

May is Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) Heritage month. Asian American and Pacific Islander are broad terms that we use to capture people with connections to over 70 countries. AAPI Heritage month originated in a congressional bill led by Capitol Hill staffer and Board Member of the OCA-Asian Pacific American Advocates, Jeanie Jew. Introduced separately by both the Senate and House of Representatives in 1977, AAPI Heritage Month started out as a week-long celebration and became a month-long celebration twelve years later when President George H.W. Bush officially signed it into law. May commemorates the immigration of the first Japanese to the United States on May 7, 1843, and marks 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.

Learn More About the Origins of AAPI Heritage Month

Disaggregating "Asian" Identity

When we think of Asian Americans we typically have in mind of East Asians (people of Chinese, Japanese, or Korean descent). We have culturally inherited "Asian American" as a category from social institutions like the U.S. Census Bureau and the Pan-Asian student movements in the late 1960s. But not all Asian Americans identify as East Asian. Asian American is a rather broad term to describe a vast and diverse community.

Asia is the world's largest and most populous continent; home to over 4.3 billion people in over 45 countries, speaking nearly 2,300 languages. It

Amplifying Pacific Islander Identities

As an identity category, Pacific Islander is equally vast and multi-varied. In the context of AAPI, Pacific Islander refers to those who can trace their heritage back to the original peoples of Polynesia, Micronesia, and Melanesia.

Polynesia includes: Hawaii, Samoa, American Samoa, Tokelau, Tahiti, & Tonga

Micronesia includes: Guam, Mariana Islands, Saipan,
As of 2018, there are over 24 million AAPI people residing in America. In the Philadelphia metropolitan region alone, there are over 6 million people of Asian and Pacific Islander descent.

Source: https://www.census.gov/library/visualizations/2020/demo/ajan-population.html

**Dear Asian Americans: Stop Erasing Pacific Islanders**

By Guest Contributor: Conrad Lihlihi (@clihilihi)

[Read more](reappropriate.co)

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**Supporting Our Neighbors in Chinatown**

Philadelphia’s Chinatown neighborhood is located only a few blocks away from PAFA. Over the past few decades, Chinatown has slowly diversified and other Asian cultures are now represented, including Vietnamese, Japanese, Cambodian, Malaysian, Korean, Thai, Burmese, and more recently Egyptians. The neighborhood was one of the most affected areas of the city even before the city shutdown in March 2020. Reduced business and foot traffic occurred earlier due to the stigma of the origins of the

**Did you know Philadelphia has a Koreatown?**

The first Koreatown began in the 1980s and is located in the Olney section of Philadelphia, a densely populated Korean community. It is a lesser known Asian American enclave compared to Chinatown. Similar to Chinatown, Koreatown will have businesses offering traditional products, services, and food. Over the years,
coronavirus.

Many faculty, staff, and students frequent Chinatown to experience a diverse array of Asian-owned businesses. In this section, we want to promote local businesses and highlight some of our staffs favorite picks!

In this section, Philadelphia’s Koreatown slowly expanded north towards the Cheltenham suburbs of the city.

In the past two decades, other Korean enclaves have emerged such as the ones found in Upper Darby Township and Cherry Hill, NJ. A prominent feature for these Korean American communities is the addition of the popular Korean grocery chain, H-Mart, which offers exotic produce, imported groceries, and household items. Many H-Marts feature food halls that bring popular Korean dishes.

- H Mart (Elkins Park) - first establishment in Pennsylvania, 1998
- H Mart (Cherry Hill) - 2001
- H Mart (Upper Darby) - 2005
- H Mart (Northeast Philadelphia) - 2020

Cafes & Bakeries

Chinatown has countless bakeries offering a variety of sweet and savory baked or steamed bread buns, with a variety of fillings and toppings that are not commonly found in a Western bakeries. Hoang Tran and Abby King agree that a pork bun and coffee is the best $3 meal in the city! Hoang prefers the roast pork buns (and the taro buns) from The Mayflower Bakery & Café while Abby is a fan of Bread Top House.

For Instagram-able desserts that look like works of art, Vy Dang and Dr. Ronke Oke suggest heading to A La

If you're in Chinatown, you'll immediately notice many people walking around sipping on drinks with black balls at the bottom of their cups. Depending on the region you are from, the tapioca balls are known as boba, bubble, or pearl. Adding the chewy little balls to your tea drinks originated in Taiwan and is now part of Asian-American popular culture.

For an afternoon pick me up, Kristina Murray and Danielle McAdams head to Mr. Wish for their bubble tea. For
Mousse

For the more adventurous types, check out the authentic Taiwanese snack spot Heung Fa Chun Sweet House. They are known for their sweet tofu dessert and fresh soy milk, but Vicky Rivers is a fan of the red bean sesame balls.

Other bakeries to explore:
- KC's Pastries
- Paris Baguette
- Asia Bakery
- Mong Kok Station
- International Bakery

Other tea shops to explore:
- Tea Do
- Vivi Bubble Tea
- Kung Fun Tea
- A Cup of Tea
- Tiger Sugar
- Moge Tea
- Tsaocaa

*Note: While most bakeries offer bubble tea, the menu will be limited in comparison to tea shops.

Next week, we’ll highlight some Noodles dishes.

PAFA’s Exhibition History: Asian American Artists

While PAFA is traditionally known as a museum that exhibits American Art, there were exhibitions that featured Asian art and artists starting in the late 19th century. By the 20th century, PAFA exhibited Asian American Artists.

- 1890 - The Japanese Collection of Dr. Edward H. Williams
- 1894 - Japanese Art
- 1901 - Teijiro Hasekana: Watercolors
- 1923 - John F. Lewis Collection of Paintings and Drawings of Persia and India
- 1923 - Exhibition of Paintings by Modern Japanese Artists from the Collection of Yonezo Okamoto
Jewish American Heritage Month

Located only a 10 minute drive from from PAFA is the National Museum of American Jewish History (NMAJH). NMAJH has been an important resource for the collecting and archiving of Jewish American history. In honor of Jewish American Heritage Month they have a wonderful collection of videos cataloguing stories of famous Jewish Americans as part of their "Only in America" series. Click the image below to view their story collection.

"ONLY IN AMERICA" STORIES

Jews have experienced unprecedented freedoms in America even in the face of antisemitism. Here are stories of extraordinary individuals who illustrate the epitome what's possible when someone is given the chance to dream, dare, and do.

RUTH BADER GINSBURG
B. 1933

JONAS SALK
1914-1995

SANDY KOUFA
B. 1935

EMMA LAZARUS
1849-1887

Watch it Again!

PAFA's Public Education and Engagement team regularly hosts wonderful programming for artists and art lovers of all different age
Click the links below to watch their recent events amplifying the contributions of Jewish American artists to American history and PAFA's collection.

Jewish Dimensions in American Art

Dr. Katerina Romanenko highlighted works by some of the Jewish American artists in PAFA's historic collection.

Audrey Flack’s Vanitas

Dr. Nancy Heller gave a deep dive into Jewish-American artist Audrey Flack’s photorealism in December 2020.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

National Day of Prayer. By Presidential proclamation, this day is a time for the people of the United States to turn to God in prayer and meditation at churches, in groups, and as individuals.

International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia. This day aims to coordinate international events that raise awareness of LGBTQIA+ rights violations worldwide.

Memorial Day. Originally a day of remembrance for those who died for the Union in the Civil War, this national holiday now honors those who gave their lives in all wars.

Faculty & Staff:
PAFA Welcomes Back Ahyana King!
Tuesday May 4th @ 4pm
You are invited to spend 30 minutes with Ahyana King, mental health practitioner at Grit + Grace this Tuesday, May 4th, 2021 at 4pm, for "Rhythm + Words." During this time you will have an opportunity to pause, to breathe, and engage in a reflective listening and writing activity, tuning into the rhythm of your body, giving language to what you hear, feel, and notice in its rhythm.

From Our Collection

Wire Cyclist
by Yasuo Kuniyoshi

Yasuo Kuniyoshi's work combines influences of American folk art, Japanese design, and European Modernism. The Wire Cyclist is among many images of women entertainers Kuniyoshi made following his extended trips to Paris in the late 1920s.

Did you know that the first work of art by artists of Asian descent entered PAFA's collection in 1953?

We challenge you to check PAFA's Diversity Awareness Calendar monthly and attend monthly OISE sponsored events. The purpose of this calendar is to celebrate and raise awareness of religious obligations, ethnic and cultural festivities, and significant events that may affect students, colleagues, and friends in the PAFA community.

Office of Institutional Safety & Equity
Being an ally for a S.A.F.E. Community at PAFA
May 2021

IN THIS ISSUE

May is Pacific Islander Heritage Month

Celebrating Pacific Islander Peoples, Identities, Voices & Cultures

Explore Your City

Watch It Again!

Two incredible curatorial-led events sponsored by PAFA’s Public Education & Engagement’s Team for AAPI Heritage Month

Upcoming & Local Events

From Our Collection

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OISE would like to give a special thanks to Dr. Ashley Caranto Morford and Hoang Tran, collaborators and content creators for our May Diversity Awareness Micro-Newsletters.

May is Pacific Islander Heritage Month

What is Pacific Islander?

"Pacific Islander, sometimes referred to as Pasifika, is used to describe the Indigenous people of the Pacific Islands in Oceania: Melanesian, Polynesian, & Micronesian. It should be used for people who are ethnically Pacific Islander, not for those who happen
to live in the Pacific Islands. Refrain from using ‘Asian Pacific Islander’ unless you are referring to someone who is both Asian and Pacific Islander.”

Thanks to @samismooches for permission to include her informative images about Pacific Islander experiences, identities, cultures, histories, and lands.

MAY IS ASIAN & PACIFIC ISLANDER (API) HERITAGE MONTH

WHAT IS PACIFIC ISLANDER?
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- Refrain from using "Asian Pacific Islander" unless you are referring to someone who is both Asian and Pacific Islander.

WHO ARE PACIFIC ISLANDERS?
The Indigenous people from these islands:

MELANESIA
- Australia
- Aboriginal + Torres Strait Islanders
- Fiji
- Maluku Islands
- New Caledonia
- Papua New Guinea
- Solomon Islands
- Timor Leste
- Vanuatu
- West Papua

POLYNESIA
- American Samoa
- Cook Islands
- Easter Island
- Fiji
- French Polynesia
- Hawai‘i
- New Zealand
- Niue
- Pitcairn Islands
- Samoa
- Tokelau
- Tonga
- Tuvalu
- Wallis & Futuna

MICRONESIA
- Guam
- Federated States of Micronesia
- Chuuk
- Kosrae
- Pohnpei
- Yap
- Kiribati
- Marshall Islands
- Nauru
- Northern Mariana Islands
- Palau

WHERE ARE THE PACIFIC ISLANDS?

Pacific Islander Organizations in the US

There are some wonderful Pacific Islander organizations in the US, which support and celebrate Pacific Islander peoples, cultures, identities, histories, voices, and experiences, and promote social justice for Pacific Islanders. These organizations include:
Why it's time to retire the term 'Asian Pacific Islander'

Sometimes in the march to progress and inclusivity, we find ourselves taking a path that leads us in the opposite direction than what we intended. Such is the case with the term "Asian Pacific Islander" or API, a now commonly used way to describe ... Read more
www.seattletimes.com

Literature & Films by Pacific Islanders

If you are looking for some summer reads, check out these amazing books — ranging from poetry collections to short story collections to novels — by Pacific Islanders: https://electricliterature.com/13-books-by-pacific-islanders/.

Watch this YouTube playlist featuring over 250 videos of Pacific Islander poetry, compiled by Craig Santos Perez: https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLxdhhYadU_WjIuGLq0AM3Nt861jepqg6dz

You can read the autobiography of Queen Lili'uokalani of the Kingdom of Hawaii at: https://digital.library.upenn.edu/women/liliuokalani/hawaii/hawaii.html

Celebrating Pacific Islanders in Lenapehoking (Philly)

Did you know that Jordan Mailata of the Philadelphia Eagles football team is Samoan? Originally a professional rugby player, Mailata joined the Eagles in 2018.

You can learn more about his football career at:

Empowered Pacific Islander Communities (EPIC): https://www.empowereddpi.org/

South Pacific Islander Organization (SPIO): https://www.southpacificislander.org/

And check out the Critical Pacific Islands Studies Library Research Guide from University of California Berkeley: https://guides.lib.berkeley.edu/criticalpistudies/
Movies by Pacific Islanders

And, for movie lovers, be sure to check out Maori film *Whale Rider* (as well as Witi Ihimaera's book of the same title), which follows the story of a young Maori girl as she becomes the leader of her community.

To learn more about the film, visit:

[Whale Rider](#)

Explore Your City

After the Vietnam War, a significant number Vietnamese refugees resettled in the Philadelphia region. Over the next four decades, the Vietnamese population grew exponentially and now represents the third largest Asian population in Philadelphia (behind Chinese and Indian). The 2010 US Census suggests Philadelphia has the largest Vietnamese population on the east coast with 14,431. [1] Much like Koreatown and Chinatown, the Vietnamese community also developed their own distinct ethnic enclave known as “Little Saigon” which is located in South Philly (along Washington Avenue, from 5th street to 17th street). These enclaves are typically centered around strip malls that have mixed businesses such as supermarkets, restaurants, eastern medicine shops, jewelry stores, salons, and gift shops. While many of the businesses cater to the Southeast Asian communities, these shopping areas are also popular with the surrounding Latin and African immigrant communities as well. In recent years, Little Saigon has welcomed other Asian businesses (Korean, Chinese, Indonesian, and Cambodian).

**New World Plaza**: 600 Washington Ave.

**Wing Phat Plaza**: 1122 Washington Ave.

While you’re in neighbor, don’t forget to explore some of the Asian murals located throughout South Philly.


Mural Arts Projects
Fables of Fortune
Eric Okdeh
2300 S. Seventh Street
Painted to raise awareness about the gambling addiction that plague Asian immigrant communities

Nature Matching
Tatfoo Tan
641 Snyder Avenue
Colors correspond to different fruits and vegetables eaten by the refugee communities that settled in South Philly

Southeast by Southeast
Shira Walinsky
Multiple locations 2106 S. 8th Street; 7th St. and Emily St.
"Murals help tell the stories of the Bhutanese and Burmese refugee communities in South Philly"

Watch it Again!

PAFA’s Public Education and Engagement team regularly hosts wonderful programming for artists and art lovers of all different age ranges, skill levels, and on a range of different topics and themes. Click the links below to watch their recent events amplifying the contributions of Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) artists to American history and PAFA's collection.
Unseeing Empire: Bakirathi Mani, Annu Palakunnathu Matthew and Jodi Throckmorton

Three scholars investigate how images of empire haunt contemporary Asian American visual cultures.

Infection, Migration, and Material in Rina Banerjee’s Work

Three curators discuss the legacy of Rina Banerjee’s exploration of global migrations of both people and resources.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Starts TODAY!!!

The Chinatown Scavenger Hunt with PCDC and Franklin Square Park is back for a Summer Edition with new locations to discover historic Chinatown, search for clues, gather points, and earn prizes! How to participate: Participants must register at Franklin Square’s Ticket Window during business hours to start the Chinatown Scavenger Hunt.

Starts: May 10, 2021
Ends: July 3, 2021
“In recognition of Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month, the Asian American Writers’ Workshop (AAWW) presents a reading and celebration of Pacific Islander poetry, hosted by Craig Santos Perez, and featuring William Nuʻutupu Giles, Jocelyn Kapumealani Ng, and Noʻu Revilla. These writers, activists, educators, organizers, and innovators are redefining Indigenous identity, examining human relationships to the environment in a time of climate crisis, supporting contemporary protest movements, and allowing us to imagine a more sustainable future.”

LEARN

“This webinar brings together four noted Pacific Islander Studies scholars and community organizers for a discussion around the intersections between race and indigeneity across Oceania. Our conversation will explore the connected and overlapping histories of racial formations, empire, settler colonialism, and militarism within the intimacies of oceans and islands. The panel will be moderated by UCSD Ethnic Studies PhD alum Dr. Olivia Quintanilla. ASL interpretation will be provided.”
EXHIBITION

The Beetroot Robe, Qasim Riza Shaheen's second solo show at 12G, is a journey through colors, characters and codes. Its works are ceremonious, part imagined future, part remembrance of past. While its shard-like visual narratives seek to unite ambiguity and mystique, its posed portraits look back at the viewer, invoking the power of retrospect to elucidate the process of longing and aging.

From Our Collection

Girl Torso
Isamu Noguchi (1904-1988)
Did you know the public art sculpture located at the base of the Ben Franklin Bridge was done by Noguchi? Bolt of Lightning...A Memorial to Benjamin Franklin was conceived in 1933 but wasn’t installed until 1984.

Did you know that in 1961, Chen Chi (1912-2005) was awarded the Dawson Memorial Medal for his watercolor painting \textit{Chuang Tze}, exhibited at PAFA's 154th Annual Exhibition.

We challenge you to check \textit{PAFA's Diversity Awareness Calendar} monthly and attend monthly OISE sponsored events. The purpose of this calendar is to celebrate and raise awareness of religious obligations, ethnic and cultural festivities, and significant events that may affect students, colleagues, and friends in the PAFA community.

\textit{Office of Institutional Safety & Equity}

\textit{Being an ally for a S.A.F.E. Community at PAFA}
**Office of Institutional Safety & Equity (OISE)**

*May 2021 | Issue #3*

**CONGRATULATIONS TO THE GRADUATING CLASS OF 2021!**

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OISE would like to give a special thanks to *Dr. Ashley Caranto Morford and Hoang Tran*, collaborators and content creators of our Monday AAPI Briefs.

**Know Your History: On Anti-Asian Violence**

We in the PAFA community are filled with grief over the ongoing violences that are currently and increasingly being enacted against the Asian American community, including the racially and gender motivated mass shootings in Georgia earlier this year, in which Soon Chung Park, Sunacha Kim, Yong Ae Yue, Hyun Jung Grant, Delaina Ashley Yaun, Paul Andre Michels, Xiaojie Tan, and Daoyou Feng were murdered, and in
which Elcias Hernandez Ortiz was injured. We say each of their names with love and respect, and with the desire to honor their vibrant lives and their ongoing spirits.

While the Covid-19 pandemic and the racist speech of former President Donald Trump has seemingly ignited this string of violence against Asian Americans, this violence is rooted in a long history of anti-Asian laws and institutionalized anti-Asian sentiment within the United States.

Some of the anti-Asian laws that have manifested throughout the history of the United States include (but are not limited to) the Chinese Exclusion Act (1882-1943), the creation of Chinatowns in response to xenophobia, the internment of Japanese Americans during WWII (1942-1946), “Yellow Peril” narratives, anti-miscegenation laws, the model minority myth, and Islamophobic laws and the “War on Terror.”

To learn more about the history of anti-Asian laws and sentiment within the United States, we recommend the PBS docuseries Asian Americans: https://www.pbs.org/show/asian-americans/

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### Community Movements of Care

The Asian American community has always fought against and resisted anti-oppressive atrocities.

It is important that measures of safety put in place for one community do not enact violence against and decrease the safety of another community. For instance, while some Asian Americans called for increased police presence as anti-Asian violence increased during the pandemic, other Asian Americans importantly pushed against this call, emphasizing that an increase in police presence would compromise the safety of Black people in
In the wake of the violence in Atlanta, Black and Asian communities are coming together to stand against racism.

We seek to recognize the grassroots responses and community movements of support and care that have formed against the current wave of anti-Asian violence, and that care for the holistic well-being of Black, Indigenous, and people of color communities, such as grassroots community self-defense classes and grassroots community walking programs where people volunteer to walk together to appointments, the grocery store, and other places they may need to go, to ensure that they travel in safety.

A very informative teaching about this topic and issue is Tamara Nopper's lecture on anti-Asian racism and Black-Asian solidarity today, which you can view at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l7MNPXHT0wM

Support Our Neighbors in Chinatown

Having a history of over two thousand years, the noodle plays a significant role in Asian food culture. In fact, certain noodle dishes can reflect the history, regional differences, social/political changes, traditional values and overall cultural identity of a nation. There are countless variations of noodle dishes throughout Asia. Fortunately, many of the well-known Asian noodles are represented in Philadelphia’s Chinatown.

Noodles

First, a favorite for many at PAFA are hand-drawn noodles. Also known as hand-pulled noodles, they have a distinct chewiness and are extremely long compared to regular noodles.
Many at PAFA including Anna Marley, Jodi Throckmorton, and Vy Dang are big fans of Nan Zhou Noodle House. Mark Knobelsdorf prefers his hand-drawn noodles from Spice-C around the corner (Vy also enjoys their noodles!).

Another iconic noodle dish is the Japanese ramen. These noodles served in soupy broth gained popularity in America after World War II. There are countless varieties of ramen representing different regions and flavor profiles. Kristina Murray, Danielle McAdams, and Vy Dang suggests Terakawa Ramen for an authentic ramen noodle shop experience! Don’t be shy about slurping, it is customary when enjoying ramen!

For a more anime inspired dining experience, check out Yamitsuki Ramen.

Perhaps the most widely known
Vietnamese dish is pho (beef noodle soup, pronounced “fuh”). With the end of the Vietnam War, the Vietnamese diaspora introduced pho to the world! Historically eaten for breakfast, pho can be enjoyed any time of the day. Adrian Cubillas and Vy Dang agree that Pho Xe Lua Viet Thai Restaurant offer delicious bowls of pho.

Another popular Vietnamese soup known for its spicy lemongrass broth is Bun Bo Hue. Adrian Cubillas orders his bowl at Pho Cali while Brittany Webb opts for Vietnam Restaurant.

Stir-fry noodles are also a staple in many Asian countries. Noodles fresh of the wok have a distinct taste and smell to the dish. This is known as “wok hei” literally translated as “breath of the wok”. Abby King enjoys the Malaysian version of chow fun from Penang and Hoang Tran likes their chow kueh teow.

While not located in Chinatown, we wanted to also highlight Kusina Philly, a West Philly Filipino restaurant that opened during the pandemic. The two most popular Filipino noodle dishes are the Filipino style spaghetti, an adaptation of Italian spaghetti with Bolognese sauce, and pancit, stir-fry noodles introduced by Chinese merchants.

Other Asian noodles to try:
- Vietnamese vermicelli
- Wonton noodle soup
- Korean japchae
- Malaysian laksa
- Sichuan dandan noodles
- Taiwanese beef noodle soup
- Fried sauce noodles, Jjajangmyeon (Korean), Zha jiang mian (Chinese)

Next week, we’ll highlight some popular small bites/street food.

EXPLORE YOUR CITY

According to 2010 census estimates, roughly 10,000 Cambodians lived in
Philadelphia, making it the fourth largest Cambodian population among US cities.

The first Cambodians settled in West Philadelphia, but in the last 20 years most have migrated to South Philadelphia. Other areas with pockets of Cambodian immigrants include North Philadelphia, Logan/Olney, and Upper Darby.

Much like the other ethnic enclaves highlighted in previous newsletters, Cambodians along with other Southeast Asians (Laotian, Indonesia, and Burmese) have carved out a business corridor in South Philly (7th street between Snyder Avenue and Oregon Avenue).

While you’re in the neighborhood, take a trip to see the architectural details of the Preah Buddha Rangsey Temple, 2400 S. 6th Street. More recently in 2020, the Philadelphia Department of Parks and Rec supported locals in developing and expanding the popular Southeast Asian Market at FDR Park. The open air market features dozens of vendors hawking popular street food, exotic produce, plants, and more.

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MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Digital Symposium

Starts: May 27, 2021, 7-9pm

What could the heritage future of chinatown look like? The ChinaTOwn digital symposium, presented by Prof. Linda Zhang of Ryerson School of Interior Design at FCAD, will begin the discussion by looking at the
history and origins of architectural motifs that we now recognize in chinatowns today.

From the first Chinatown in San Francisco, to the world's fairs that fascinated visitors with false portrayals of Chinese culture, the symposium will explore exactly what defines the “Chinatown-ness” that we know today, and how we arrived at that definition.”


2021 Bulosan Center for Filipinx Studies Research Conference
“Healing, Care, and Resistance”
May 28th and 29th

This year’s conference theme is “Healing, Care, and Resistance”. Given the continuing pandemic and political climate, our communities have been forced to alter ways of building, organizing, caring, healing, and resistance. This conference hopes to shine light on how our Filipina/o/x community organizes, heals, and builds community both within the U.S. context, in the homeland, and throughout the diaspora. This conference invites conversations, research, and discussions on transnational activisms, virtual care, healing work, artivism, and various modes of community building.”

Assistant Professor Ashley Caranto Morford will be speaking on settler Filipino and Indigenous solidarities at this event.

Free registration at: tinyurl.com/registerbulocon2021

LEARN

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Islander Studies scholars and community organizers for a discussion around the intersections between race and indigeneity across Oceania. Our conversation will explore the connected and overlapping histories of racial formations, empire, settler colonialism, and militarism within the intimacies of oceans and islands. The panel will be moderated by UCSD Ethnic Studies PhD alum Dr. Olivia Quintanilla. ASL interpretation will be provided.

HAPPENING NOW!!

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From Our Collection

DELICATE LINE: CORPSE SHE WAS HOLDING PORTFOLIO

CHITRA GANESH

As PAFA’s Class of 2021 celebrates graduation, let’s not forget that Chitra Ganesh was PAFA’s 2019 Commencement Speaker. Ganesh’s words still run true, “You are not entering the real world, you have already been living in the real world. The responsibilities, emotional attachments, curiosities, and struggles that have brought you all the way to this moment; you should honor those experiences and the courage and determination it has taken to come this far.”

See More From Chitra Ganesh

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Office of Institutional Safety & Equity
Being an ally for a S.A.F.E. Community at PAFA
Office of Institutional Safety & Equity (OISE)

May 2021 | Issue #4

IN THIS ISSUE

PAFA Community Mourns with India

Amplifying South Asian Voices

Support our Neighbors in Chinatown

Explore Your City

Street Food

From Our Collection

In the United States, the month of May is an annual recognition and celebration of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders.

Celebrating such a rich tapestry of cultures, traditions, and histories requires more than just one newsletter. Throughout the month of May, we will continue sharing information about AAPI communities through our Monday AAPI Briefs. These micro-newsletters will allow us to share information about AAPI communities, locate resources to support and learn more about anti-Asian violence, promote local businesses impacted by the pandemic and xenophobia, highlight the AAPI artists in our collection, and explore PAFA's history.

OISE would like to give a special thanks to Dr. Ashley Caranto Morford and Hoang Tran, collaborators and content creators of our Monday AAPI Briefs.

COVID-19 Crisis in India

This AAPI Heritage Month, the PAFA community mourns with, and holds in our hearts and thoughts, the Indian community and all those who have been and who continue to be impacted by the current and utterly devastating wave of Covid-19 in India.

Even as many people in the United States are getting vaccinated, and with increased vaccination rates comes increased hope that this pandemic will end, it is important to remember that this is not the case for many AAPI communities in India. COVID-19 has been particularly devastating for South Asians and communities of color in India, with many facing discrimination and violence in addition to the virus itself.
Remember that we are not yet in a post-pandemic world. The pandemic has made ever clearer ongoing systemic oppressions. Vaccine imperialism — that is, the hoarding of vaccines by countries like the United States and the refusal to release vaccine patents — has negatively impacted so many people and countries all over the world, including India.

We recognize the work of South Asian organizations that have been fighting for vaccine equity and offering support to South Asians impacted by the pandemic all over the world, including South Asian Americans Leading Together (SAALT). SAALT has written calls to action to support India. These calls to action are directed at the American government, and individuals can also help to support and amplify them in the ways they are able to: https://saalt.org/saalt-urges-coronavirus-related-support-for-india/. SAALT also provides extensive Covid-19 resources for the South Asian community: https://saalt.org/covid-19resources/.

The Southern California based South Asian Network, @SANSoCal (https://twitter.com/SANSoCal), and the Minnesota based South Asian Family Wellness (https://sewa-aifw.org/), have been offering virtual programming for South Asians who are mourning and worrying for loved ones and communities in India amidst the devastation of the pandemic.

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**Celebrating South Asian Philadelphia**

We celebrate the diverse and vibrant South Asian life of Philadelphia!

(1) Check out the Philadelphia-based South Asian American Digital Archives, which share stories about South Asian American histories and experiences: https://www.saada.org/

(2.) Learn about Revolution Remix, a walking tour of Philadelphia from a South Asian American historical lens: https://www.saada.org/revolutionremix

(3.) The library system at the University of Pennsylvania has one of the most highly regarded South Asian collections in the United States: https://www.library.upenn.edu/collections/

And be sure to visit the Philadelphia Museum of Art, which has an extensive collection of South Asian art.
Amplifying South Asian Voices

Here are some resources to learn more about the South Asian American experience.

If you are interested in visiting DC, the DC South Asian Arts Council hosts a South Asian film festival and a South Asian literary festival, so be sure to plan your trip in line with these wonderful events. Learn more at: https://dcsaaci.org/

South Asian American students share their experiences in this recorded discussion, “Identity Journeys: The South Asian American Student Experience”

Check out these podcasts dedicated to South Asian literature from all over the world:

- Desi Books: https://desibooks.co/
- AAW Radio’s episode on Queer South Asian Literature: https://aawwradio.libsyn.com/queer-south-asian-literature-ft-sj-sindu-rahal-mehta-srestha-sen

And learn about the “Hidden Histories of South Asian America” in this recorded talk from Dr. Ananya Chakravarti:

Support Our Neighbors in Chinatown

Street food in Asia is highly popular and varies greatly between regions and cultures. Its history is equally complex due to the international influences of migration, commerce, colonization, and globalization. Street food is typically inexpensive, accessible, and of course, delicious. While most street food is prepared fast, street food should not be compared to the standard American concept of fast food. The quality and nutritional value of many Asian street food is typically much better.

In this week’s section of Supporting our Neighbors in Chinatown, we will highlight popular street food options and staff picks!

Street Food
Many staff visit Nom Wah to get their traditional Cantonese style dim sum, which translates to “touch the heart” in reference to its portion sizes. Adrian Cubillas is a big fan of their sticky rice with lotus leaf and shrimp and snow pea leaf dumplings while Brittany Webb suggests ordering the Chinese broccoli and salt and pepper shrimp. Don’t forget to check out the fun dumpling wallpaper during your visit. Other iconic dim sum dishes include shrimp siu mai, rice rolls, steamed spare ribs, and for those adventurous eaters, chicken feet.

Every culture has their version of fried chicken and Chinatown offers a variety to try. For Japanese style fried chicken, karage, Lindsey Murphy suggests heading to Terakawa Ramen; for Taiwanese popcorn chicken, head to Vivi Bubble Tea; for Korean fried chicken, head to Bonchon (some of the spiciest wings in Philly). Xiao long bao aka soup dumplings have become tremendously popular in recent years. They are meat filled dumplings (typically pork and crab) that includes a hot broth inside. These dumplings require a caution sign and some instructions on how to eat them properly so you don’t injure yourself with the hot soup. Kristina Murray and Hoang Tran love the soup dumplings from Tom’s Dim Sum. Other places to try soup dumplings include Shanghai 1, and Dim Sum Garden—considered the original soup dumpling spot in Philly!

**How to Eat Soup Dumplings**

First, carefully place your soup dumpling on your spoon (the dumpling is delicate). Poke a hole from the top to let the steam out. The next step is either to drink the soup first, then eat the dumpling or alternatively, let the dumpling cool just enough to eat the dumpling in one bite.

Source: Listed as public domain

Asian curry come in a variety of flavors as well. The roti canai with curry from Banana Leaf and Penang is a favorite for Brittany and Hoang. The roti is a flat bread made to order and the curry combines Indian and Malaysian flavors. The curry from Kurry Korner offers the Japanese version of curry, typically served with fried chicken/pork cutlets.

While Chinatown doesn’t offer Indian food, we wanted to highlight some of Philadelphia’s thriving Indian food community as well. Indian food culture offer a ton of street options. Philadelphia’s Chutney Company offers dosas (thin crepe) and chaats. Dr. Ronke Oke suggests sampling the brunch menu at Indeblue.

Other hot spots for Indian restaurants can be found in West Philly and University City:

- Desi Chaat House
- Dana Mandi
- New Delhi restaurant
- Sitar India
- Kabobeesh
Did you know Philadelphia’s Fairmount Park is home to a Japanese garden? Known as Shofuso, the 1.2 acre green space is nestled just steps away from the Please Touch Museum. Shofuso is a 17th century-style Japanese house with associated residential gardens that reflects the history of Japanese culture in Philadelphia. The house was conceived as part of an exhibition at the Museum of Modern Art in New York City and opened to the public in 1958.

Marvel's upcoming Shang-Chi and the Legend of the Ten Rings will be a huge deal for Asian-American representation. Throughout the history of American cinema and television, there has only been a handful of movies or shows starring majority Asian casts. This will be the first ever Asian-led big studio superhero film and feature a 98% Asian cast. The movie is considered another milestone in Asian American representation in the media.

Check out the trailer below:
DIGITAL SYMPOSIUM

Starts: May 27, 2021, 7-9pm

What could the heritage future of chinatown look like? The ChinaTOwn digital symposium, presented by Prof. Linda Zhang of Ryerson School of Interior Design at FCAD, will begin the discussion by looking at the history and origins of architectural motifs that we now recognize in chinatowns today.

From the first Chinatown in San Francisco, to the world's fairs that fascinated visitors with false portrayals of Chinese culture, the symposium will explore exactly what defines the “Chinatown-ness” that we know today, and how we arrived at that definition.”


2021 Bulosan Center for Filipinx Studies Research Conference
“Healing, Care, and Resistance”
May 28th and 29th

This year’s conference theme is “Healing, Care, and Resistance”. Given the continuing pandemic and political climate, our communities have been forced to alter ways of building, organizing, caring, healing, and resistance. This conference hopes to shine light on how our Filipina/o/x community organizes, heals, and builds community both within the U.S. context, in the homeland, and throughout the diaspora. This conference invites conversations, research, and discussions on transnational aktivisms, virtual care, healing work, artivism, and various modes of community building.”
Assistant Professor Ashley Caranto Morford will be speaking on settler Filipino and Indigenous solidarities at this event.

Free registration at: tinyurl.com/registerbulocon2021

Your copy should address 3 key questions: Who am I writing for? (Audience) Why should they care? (Benefit) What do I want them to do here? (Call-to-Action)

Create a great offer by adding words like "free" "personalized" "complimentary" or "customized." A sense of urgency often helps readers take an action, so think about inserting phrases like "for a limited time only" or "only 7 remaining!"

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HAPPENING NOW!!!

The Chinatown Scavenger Hunt with PCDC and Franklin Square Park is back for a Summer Edition with new locations to discover historic Chinatown, search for clues, gather points, and earn prizes! How to participate: Participants must register at Franklin Square’s Ticket Window during business hours to start the Chinatown Scavenger Hunt.

**Starts:** May 10, 2021  
**Ends:** July 3, 2021

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EXHIBITION

**The Beetroot Robe**, Qasim Riza Shaheen's second solo show at 12G, is a journey through colors, characters and codes. Its works are ceremonious, part imagined future, part remembrance of past. While its shard-like visual narratives seek to unite ambiguity and mystique, its posed portraits look back at the viewer, invoking the power of retrospect to elucidate the process of longing and aging.

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From Our Collection
In celebration of PAFA’s 120th Annual Exhibition, we want to highlight Nhi Vo’s work *Barely* which was a Judith McGregor Caldwell Purchase Prize from the Pennsylvania Academy Annual Student Exhibition for 2017.

See More From Nhi Vo

We challenge you to check PAFA’s Diversity Awareness Calendar monthly and attend monthly OISE sponsored events. The purpose of this calendar is to celebrate and raise awareness of religious obligations, ethnic and cultural festivities, and significant events that may affect students, colleagues, and friends in the PAFA community.

Office of Institutional Safety & Equity

*Being an ally for a S.A.F.E. Community at PAFA*