

Cranston Public Library

Asian-Pacific American Heritage Month

May 2013 Program

Description: A celebration of Asian-Pacific Heritage planned and executed by the Teen Advisory Team and facilitated by the Head of Teen Services.

The Mayor of Cranston, who is of Chinese heritage, was invited and responded that he would attend the program. The local literacy and citizenship programs of the Rhode Island Family Literacy Initiative were contacted to help publicize the event. Four young people of Asian-Pacific heritage volunteered to present: Indian, Filipino, Chinese and Cambodian. Teens performed Indian Classical dance, and a break dance demonstration, prepared PowerPoints or Prezis about their culture, and prepared ethnic food to be served to attendees.

Outline of Event

**1. Introduction:** Congress passed a resolution in 1978 to designate a week to celebrate Asians and Pacific Islanders in the United States. May was chosen because it's when the first Japanese immigrants arrived in America in 1843, and when Chinese laborers finished the transcontinental railroad in 1869. President George H.W. Bush proclaimed the month of May as Asian Pacific Heritage Month in 1990.

Heritage months are a way to acknowledge our cultures and to build awareness of our history. America's mix of ethnicities is diversifying at such a rapid rate that a broader understanding of one another's perspectives is becoming increasingly important. So, this May we recognize Asian-Pacific Americans and their contributions to the American story.

The theme of this year's Heritage Month is "*I Want the Wide American Earth*," chosen by the Smithsonian Asian Pacific American Center to highlight the poem by acclaimed Filipino American writer Carlos Bulosan.

As Bulosan so eloquently writes:

Before the brave, before the proud builders and workers,

I say I want the wide American earth

For all the free.

I want the wide American earth for my people.

I want my beautiful land.

I want it with my rippling strength and tenderness

Of love and light and truth

2. Address by Mayor Fung
  3. Presentations by the Teens
  4. Buffet of Asian Food
  5. Signing the Heritage Banner
  6. Handouts to take: Map, Timeline, Famous Firsts, Famous people of Asian-Pacific Heritage
- Asian Pacific Heritage Quiz**
7. Crafts to take: Chinese Shadow Puppets and Make a Story Cloth

Handouts: Map, Timeline, Famous Firsts, and Famous People of Asian-Pacific heritage, Asian Pacific History Quiz, Crafts: Chinese Shadow puppets and Make a Story Cloth

Bibliography: <http://asianpacificheritage.gov/>, <http://www.tolerance.org/asian-pacific-american> (Asian Pacific Heritage posters),

<http://apanews.si.edu/2013/04/09/heritage-month-2013/> (Smithsonian)

<http://www.worldartswest.org/plm/guide/printablepages/makepuppets.pdf> (stick puppets)

[http://www.teachervision.fen.com/tv/printables/TCR/0615\\_43.pdf](http://www.teachervision.fen.com/tv/printables/TCR/0615_43.pdf) (story cloth)