
NEWSLETTER

May 2007

Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month



Asian Americans Honored in May

Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month honors the achievements of American ethnic groups with roots in Asia and the Pacific Islands and recognizes their contributions to the United States.

The U.S. Census Bureau lists more than 25 such groups -- Vietnamese, Chinese, Filipinos, Indian, Pakistani, Korean, Japanese, Cambodian, Laotian, Indonesian, Thai, Burmese, Malaysian, Taiwanese, Sri Lanka, Bangladeshi, and native Hawaiians, Polynesians, New Zealanders and Australians. As Americans, they contribute to the strength of the United States, help shape its future and share in its promise and opportunity.

A 1978 joint congressional resolution established Asian/Pacific American Heritage Week to be observed in May, a time chosen to coincide with two important anniversaries: the arrival in the United States of the first Japanese immigrants on May 7, 1843, and the completion of the transcontinental railroad on May 10, 1869. In 1992, Congress expanded the observance to a monthlong celebration.

According to 2005 U.S. Census Bureau statistics, approximately 13.5 percent of U.S. residents say they are Asian or Asian in combination with one or more other races. Hawaii is the U.S. state where Asians make up the highest proportion of the total population (58 percent) but, like most other ethnic groups, Americans with Asian or Pacific Island heritages reside throughout the United States.

http://usinfo.state.gov/scv/history_geography_and_population/population_and_diversity/asian_americans/asianpacifi_c_american_heritage_month.html



Bush Proclamation on Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month, 2007

President honors the contributions, achievements of Asian/Pacific Americans

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary
April 26, 2007

ASIAN/PACIFIC AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH, 2007

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
A PROCLAMATION

During Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month, we honor the many contributions citizens of Asian and Pacific Island ancestry have made to our great land.

The millions of Americans who trace their origins to nations in the Asian/Pacific region have enriched America. The entrepreneurship and innovation of Asian/Pacific Americans have strengthened our economy. Asian/Pacific Americans enrich our Nation with their strong values of love of family and community. Many Asian/Pacific Americans are serving the cause of freedom and peace around the world, and our Nation is grateful for their service. These good men and women defend our safety and contribute to the character and greatness of America.

To honor the achievements and contributions of Asian/Pacific Americans, the Congress, by Public Law 102-450, as amended, has designated the month of May each year as "Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month."

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GEORGE W. BUSH, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim May 2007 as Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month. I call upon the people of the United States to learn more about the history of Asian/Pacific Americans and their many contributions to our Nation and to observe this month with appropriate programs and activities.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-sixth day of April, in the year of our Lord two thousand seven, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-first.

GEORGE W. BUSH

**AMERICAN CORNER BITOLA
MONTHLY PROGRAM –MAY 2007**

Saturday May 5th

“Quest for Success” Workshop (prearranged group)

Facilitated by Peace Corps volunteer Miranda Carruth

Tuesday May 8th at 18:30 o’clock

English Conversation Hour * PLEASE SIGN IN TO ATTEND*

Wednesday May 9th at 14:00 o’clock

Video Showing – The Living Edens Series “Big Sur: California’s Wild Coast”

Saturday May 12th

“Quest for Success” Workshop (prearranged group)

Facilitated by Peace Corps volunteer Miranda Carruth

Tuesday May 15th at 18:30 o’clock

English Conversation Hour * PLEASE SIGN IN TO ATTEND*

Wednesday May 16th at 14:00 o’clock

Video Showing – The Living Edens Series “Denali: Alaska’s Great Wildness”

Saturday May 19th

“Quest for Success” Workshop (prearranged group)

Facilitated by Peace Corps volunteer Miranda Carruth

Monday May 21st at 18:00 o’clock

Children Story Telling Hour *PLEASE SIGN IN YOUR CHILD TO ATTEND*

Tuesday May 22nd at 18:30 o’clock

English Conversation Hour * PLEASE SIGN IN TO ATTEND*

Wednesday May 23rd at 14:00 o’clock

Video Showing – The Living Eden’s Series “Yellowstone: America’s Sacred Wilderness”

Saturday May 26th

“Quest for Success” Workshop (prearranged group)

Facilitated by Peace Corps volunteer Miranda Carruth

Presentation in honor of Asian-Pacific American History Month

Tuesday May 29th at 18:00 o’clock

“Asian American Families – Beyond the Stereotype”

Presented by Mei-Ling L. Liu, Ph. D., Professor,

U.S. Fulbright Scholar



Web chats allow foreign audiences to interact with American citizens on wide range of topics using a chat tool over the Internet.

Upcoming Web Chats in May

Democracy Dialogues: What Makes a Free Press?

Why is America Such a Hard Sell?

Democracy Dialogues: Attacks on Bloggers and Cyber-Dissidents

Strengthening Partnerships For Food Security:
Ambassador Gaddi Vasquez in Guatemala and Honduras

Belgium and the Marshall Plan
Can Cities and Communities Be Environmentally Friendly
and Profitable?

Democracy Dialogues: Threats to Journalists and Media
Professionals

Does the Marshall Plan Still Matter After 60 Years?

**Ask the American Corner Staff for further details on
how to participate.**

HIGHLIGHTS FROM APRIL 2007 PROGRAMS

In honor of Earth Day - April 22nd, the American Corner Bitola together with the Environmental Organization “Molika” organized the presentation “**A Call for Action on Climate Change**” on April 19th. Molika representative Ratko Savkovik had prepared an informative presentation and began by introducing the eighteen year old organization “Molika” to the audience. The main part of the program focused on what climate change is, how it is affecting the planet, possible end results and what action we as people can take to help. The audience displayed their concern about these climate changes as well as other environmental issue in the Bitola region with engaging in a lively discussion following the presentation. While highlighting the significance of Earth Day, public awareness of current environmental issues was raised as well as resulting in action being taken.





In honor of the **First United Nations Global Road Safety Week** the American Corner Bitola organized a special presentation to raise the awareness of road safety focusing on young road users. Guest speaker Mr. Saso Mirceski, a police officer from MVR Bitola’s Traffic Department, spoke to an audience of 35 people consisting of mainly high school students. Mr. Mirceski delivered an excellent talk focusing on the importance of road safety and how responsibility for this lays with each individual. Hard-hitting but actual examples from incidents that have occurred in Bitola were discussed to

elevate the understanding that the dangers of being irresponsible can and unfortunately do occur. This event was covered by the local TV station ORBIS. The importance of road safety was highlighted with this program and educated the youth on their role in the community to improve this.



HIGHLIGHTS FROM APRIL 2007 PROGRAMS



On April 27th the American Corner Bitola together with Peace Corps organized an exceptional program and a first for the Corner, a **Youth Debate**. Two debates took place between high school students from Kratovo and Bitola. The topics were "High School students should not be required to take a 'graduation' exam. " and "Macedonia should strongly enforce its anti-pirating law." Following the The Karl Popper policy debate format, the students engaged in a stimulating debate in English. The students were remarkable at presenting their views, arguing the opposing views and providing solid conclusions to their arguments. All participants were

provided with Certificates of Participation and a package with various materials from the Corner and Municipality of Bitola. This Debate was an important educational tool for learning analytic thinking skills as well as providing meaningful listening, speaking and writing practice. This joining of a diverse group of students also highlighted teamwork and good sportsmanship.



American Corner Bitola organized another session of Children's Storytelling Hour on April 16th. 11 children attended and enjoyed hearing stories read in English to them by Peace Corps volunteer Andrea Foy. Younger children who are just beginning their exposure to the English language have the opportunity to hear stories from a native English speaker in a relaxed atmosphere.

