



April 27, 2018

**Commission of Asian & Pacific  
Islander (CAPI) Affairs  
and  
Office of Asian & Pacific Islander  
Affairs**

## **Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month**

In 1992, the 102nd Congress approved, and then-President George H.W. Bush signed into law, the annual designation of May as Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month. May was selected to acknowledge Asian & Pacific Islander populations for two reasons: commemorates the immigration of the first Japanese to the U.S. on May 7, 1843; and marks the anniversary of the completion of the Transcontinental Railroad on May 10, 1869 – many of the workers who laid the tracks were Chinese immigrants.

Public Law 102-450  
102d Congress

### An Act

To designate May of each year as "Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month".

Oct. 23, 1992  
[H.R. 5572]

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. CONGRESSIONAL FINDINGS.

36 USC 169k  
note.

The Congress finds that—

(1) on May 7, 1843, the first Japanese immigrants came to the United States;

(2) on May 10, 1869, Golden Spike Day, the first transcontinental railroad in the United States was completed with significant contributions from Chinese pioneers;

(3) in 1979, at Congress' direction, the President proclaimed the week beginning on May 4, 1979, as Asian/Pacific American Heritage Week, providing an opportunity for the people of the United States to recognize the history, concerns, contributions, and achievements of Asian and Pacific Americans;

(4) in 1990, 1991 and 1992, Congress designated and the President proclaimed the month of May as Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month;

(5) nearly 8,000,000 people in the United States can trace their roots to Asia and the islands of the Pacific; and

(6) Asian and Pacific Americans have contributed significantly to the development of the arts, sciences, government, military, commerce, and education in the United States.

#### SEC. 2. ANNUAL COMMEMORATION.

36 USC 169k.

(a) DESIGNATION.—May of each year is designated as "Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month".

(b) FEDERAL PROCLAMATION.—The President is authorized and requested to issue annually a proclamation calling on the people of the United States to observe the month designated in subsection (a) with appropriate programs, ceremonies and activities.

(c) STATE PROCLAMATIONS.—The chief executive officer of each State is requested to issue annually a proclamation calling on the people of the State to observe the month designated in subsection (a) with appropriate programs, ceremonies and activities.

(d) DEFINITION.—For purposes of subsection (c), the term "State" means any of the several States, the District of Columbia, the Virgin Islands of the United States, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Guam, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, and Palau.

Approved October 23, 1992.

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## Iowa API Data Profile Just Released

Today, the State Data Center of Iowa released updated figures providing the most current snapshot of Iowa's Asian & Pacific Islander Community.

View the entire data profile at <http://bit.ly/2Ju2vpi>



## Events Calendar: API Heritage in Iowa

Des Moines – World Tai Chi Day – April 28 [Central Iowa Tai Chi & Qigong](#)

Des Moines – [CelebrAsian](#) – May 25-26

Sioux City – Asian Festival June 16

Cedar Rapids – [Asian Fest](#) – July 28



#IAACelebrAsian



**FOOD. DRINK. MUSIC. DANCE. CULTURE.**  
**FREE ADMISSION**

FRIDAY, MAY 25 // 11 am – 10 pm

SATURDAY, MAY 26 // 11 am – 10 pm

**WESTERN GATEWAY PARK, DES MOINES, IOWA**

FREE PARKING AT NATIONWIDE RAMP

Entrance at 11<sup>th</sup> & Mulberry

# 7TH ANNUAL SIOUXLAND ASIAN FESTIVAL



**JUNE  
16**

**12:00 - 4:00 PM  
RIVERSIDE PARK  
1301 RIVERSIDE BLVD  
SIOUX CITY, IA 51109**

**JOIN US FOR A DAY OF  
CELEBRATING  
CULTURES THROUGH  
LIVE ENTERTAINMENT,  
MUSIC, FOOD, GAMES,  
AND MORE! THIS  
FAMILY FUN EVENT IS  
FREE AND OPEN TO  
THE PUBLIC.**

  
Sanford Center  
Nurturing Community

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## Virtual API Cultural Experience

### Smithsonian Asian Pacific American Center

The Smithsonian Asian Pacific American Center brings history, art and culture to you through innovative museum experiences and digital initiatives. Since its establishment in 1997 as an initiative critical to the mission of the Smithsonian, the vision for the Smithsonian Asian Pacific American Center has been to enrich the appreciation of America's Asian Pacific heritage and empower Asian Pacific American communities in their sense of inclusion within the national culture. <http://bit.ly/2HtR3xA>

### PBS API Story Collection

Celebrate Asian Pacific American Heritage Month this May and every day with a special PBS collection of stories that explores the history, traditions and culture of Asians and Pacific Islanders in the United States. <https://to.pbs.org/2r2uJ41>

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# Landmark SCOTUS Case: Yick Wo v Hopkins (1886)

The Court's decision in this was seen as trailblazing -- it struck down legislation aimed at closing Chinese-operated laundries in San Francisco and guaranteed non-citizens the Constitution's protections. It was the first case to use the "equal protection" clause of the 14th Amendment, which prohibits states from denying any person within their jurisdiction the equal protection of the law. In a unanimous decision, the Supreme Court ruled laws with discriminatory intent were unconstitutional. This decision opened the doors for immigrant integration in American society and established precedent for subsequent cases with similar issues affecting non-citizens.

This landmark case has been cited over 150 times since the Court's decision. Yick Wo was the name of the laundry owned by Chinese immigrant Lee Yick in San Francisco, California. Peter Hopkins was the Sheriff of the San Francisco police department (1885-1886). Learn more about this case on C-SPAN: <http://bit.ly/2HwpW0I>

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## Who was Fred Korematsu?

New Curriculum Available from the [Fred Korematsu Institute](#)

Fred T. Korematsu was a national civil rights hero. In 1942, at the age of 23, he refused to go to the government's incarceration camps for Japanese Americans. After he was arrested and convicted of defying the government's order, he appealed his case all the way to the Supreme Court. In 1944, the Supreme Court ruled against him, arguing that the incarceration was justified due to military necessity.

The Korematsu Institute has published a revised and expanded [Teacher's Guide and new multimedia resources](#), including clips from five excellent documentaries on the Japanese American incarceration, with accompanying lesson plans.

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## CIVIC ENGAGEMENT EVENT

### Civic Saturday in Des Moines

[Citizen University](#) is a national platform for fostering responsible and empowered citizenship through activation, communication, and education. Via CU, Civic Saturday is an initiative that originated out of Washington State by Eric Liu and is now going nationwide in an effort to promote civic dialogue and coming together as a community around civic ideals.

This free event is taking place on May 5th from 9:30 AM - 12:00 PM at Grand View University Student Center Speed Lyceum. [Get your free ticket.](#) Doors open at 9:30 AM for the social impact fair prior to the program beginning at 10:30 AM.



**CIVIC  
SATURDAY**

**A MORNING OF CIVIC  
REFLECTION & INSPIRATION**

**MAY 5**  
10:30AM-12:00PM  
GRAND VIEW  
UNIVERSITY



Learn more: [bit.ly/CivicDM](https://bit.ly/CivicDM)

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**From Bhutan to Iowa**



[Chidananda Dahal](#) recounts the long journey from his home in Bhutan to Des Moines, Iowa. Mr. Dahal eloquently writes about the history of his native land and the forces that pushed he and his people from their homeland. Read his story here: <http://bit.ly/2KILj6H>

Excerpt:

"We are so proud that we are now citizens. We are ready to use our civic rights and vote in all local, state and national elections. It is a privilege for people like me to be a citizen protected by the constitution of this wonderful country. I shall never take it for granted. We no longer feel that our future is dark. Our kids are doing great in school and as community members. The sky is the limit for success now. It is a whole new life, like a rebirth, for all of us."

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## Eldercare and Aging Webinars

### Iowa Department on Aging

The State of Iowa's Department on Aging hosts educational webinars. Click the link to learn about upcoming informational webinars that will prepare yourself and your loved ones for the future. These webinars are scheduled events as part of the 2018 Dialogue on Aging Series. <http://bit.ly/2KhZmdA>

### Elder Law Webinars



Join us on Thursdays this Spring from your home or office for five FREE Elder Law Webinars over the Internet. The webinars start promptly at 11:00 a.m. and end at 12:00 p.m.

## Elder Law Webinar Dates

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|-----------------------|--|
| <b>April 5, 2018</b>  | <b>Planning to Protect Your Future: Powers of Attorney, Healthcare Directives and Other Tools</b><br><i>Andrew Cederdahl, Attorney at Law, Iowa Legal Aid's Elder Justice Fellow</i>             |
| <b>April 26, 2018</b> | <b>Family Law Issues for Older Adults: Grandparents Rights, Common Law Marriage and More</b><br><i>Angela Broughton-Romain, Attorney at Law, Iowa Legal Aid's Legal Hotline for Older Iowans</i> |
| <b>May 17, 2018</b>   | <b>Medicaid Eligibility for Nursing Home and In-Home Services</b><br><i>Scott Hartsook, Attorney at Law, Iowa Legal Aid's Legal Hotline for Older Iowans</i>                                     |
| <b>June 7, 2018</b>   | <b>Protecting Yourself from Elder Abuse and Financial Exploitation</b><br><i>Andrew Cederdahl, Attorney at Law, Iowa Legal Aid's Elder Justice Fellow</i>  |
| <b>June 28, 2018</b>  | <b>The Golden Years and Debt: Surviving on a Fixed Income</b><br><i>Fred Nelson, Attorney at Law, Iowa Legal Aid's Legal Hotline for Older Iowans</i>  |

To register, visit  
<https://tinyurl.com/ElderLaw2018>

Sponsored by Iowa Legal Aid's Legal Hotline for Older Iowans. Funded in part with grants from the Prairie Meadows Racetrack and Casino, Equal Justice Works, and Iowa's Lawyer Trust Account Commission. For details, call 1-800-992-8161, or 282-8161 in Des Moines, or email [btharp@iowalaw.org](mailto:btharp@iowalaw.org)



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