

DEI Committee NEWSLETTER



May is Asian Pacific American Heritage Month and Jewish American Heritage Month!

Here are some ideas of what you could do in your classroom or at your school:

- Find a new book for your class about [Asian American History](#) or [Jewish Identity and History](#).
- Newsela has text sets [about Jewish American Heritage](#) and [Asian Pacific American Heritage](#) with differentiated texts for 5 different reading levels.
- Read through these [18 Ways To Celebrate Jewish American Heritage Month](#) and choose one for yourself or your class.
- Check out this [list of resources](#) for learning about Asian Pacific American history in your class.
- Check out [these resources and lesson plans](#) about Jewish American Heritage Month.

Calendar - May

(Source: Seramount)

May is [Asian Pacific American Heritage Month](#) and [Jewish American Heritage Month](#)!

For more information about the following events and holidays, [click here](#):

May 1: Beltane, an ancient Celtic festival celebrated on May Day, signifying the beginning of summer

May 3: Feasts of Saints Philip and James, a Roman rite feast day.

May 4: National Day of Prayer, observed in the United States, where people are asked to “turn to God in prayer and meditation”.

May 5: Cinco de Mayo, celebrating the Mexican Army’s 1862 victory over France at the Battle of Puebla during the Franco-Mexican War.

May 8–9 (sundown to sundown): Lag BaOmer, a Jewish holiday marking the day of hillula of Rabbi Shimon bar Yochai

May 17: International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia, and Biphobia, a global celebration of sexual orientation and gender diversities

May 18: Ascension of Jesus or Ascension Day, celebrated within some of the Christian faith

May 19: Malcolm X Day, to commemorate the civil rights leader

May 21: World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development, a day set aside by the United Nations

May 23–24 (sundown to sundown): Declaration of the Báb, the forerunner of Bahá’u’lláh, the founder of the Bahá’í faith.

May 26: Buddha Day (Vesak or Visakha Puja), a Buddhist festival that marks Gautama Buddha’s birth, enlightenment, and death.

May 26-27 (sundown to sundown): Shavuot, a Jewish holiday that marks the wheat harvest in Israel and the anniversary of the Jews receiving the Torah at Mount Sinai.

May 28: Pentecost, the Christian celebration of the giving of the Ten Commandments

May 29: Memorial Day in the United States, honoring military veterans who died in wars fought by US forces

May 29: Ascension of Bahá’u’lláh, commemorates the ascension of Bahá’u’lláh, the founder of the Bahá’í faith

NEC DEI-related events

DEI Committee Meeting: Join us for our monthly meeting on **Tuesday, May 9** at **2:30-3:30** at **Topsfield Vocational Academy**.

PD Opportunities:

- [IDEAS summer courses](#): DEI-related courses for educators; we are IDEAS members - contact Fran if you're interested in participating

Mailing List Link: tinyurl.com/nsecdiversity

Join our mailing list to get regular updates on DEI-themed PD, articles, videos and more!

DEI Keyword of the Month:

Bamboo Ceiling

Bamboo Ceiling:

The term "bamboo ceiling" was coined and popularized in 2005 by Jane Hyun in [Breaking the Bamboo Ceiling: Career Strategies for Asians](#), where she addresses the barriers faced by many [Asian Americans](#) in the professional arena, such as stereotypes and racism, while also providing solutions to overcome these barriers.^{[1][2]} The bamboo ceiling, as defined by Jane Hyun, is a combination of individual, cultural, and organizational factors that impede Asian Americans' career progress inside organizations.

-Wikipedia

DEI Articles of the Month

*Check out this article from the journal *Diverse Issues in Higher Education*: [Breaking the Bamboo Ceiling](#) (2014).

*Search [Readworks.org](https://www.readworks.org), an incredible free resource for searchable articles at all reading levels, for API articles like these:

- ["Learning the Fan Dance"](#), Grade 3 RL
- ["Important Asian American Figures"](#), Grade 5
- ["BTS and the K-Pop Explosion"](#), Grade 8 RL
- ["Elaborate Structures Made in Beijing"](#), Grades 11-12 RL

Local DEI Events: Celebrate AAPI month in your community

- [PEM South Asian Art Gallery](#)
- [Asian Export Art Gallery | PEM Asian Art Collection](#)
- [The State of Race: AAPI Heritage Month – The Invisible Becoming Visible \(In-person and Virtual\)](#)
- [2023 AAPI 5K – Race Roster – Registration, Marketing, Fundraising](#)
- [Race Groups: AAPI 5k Run 'n' Walk Lexington](#)
- [Asian Pacific American Heritage Month](#)

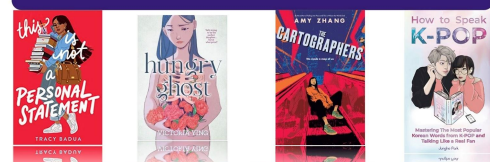
What can I do on my own time to learn about AAPI history and experience?

- Display [this poster](#) (right) and read some of the selected books about Asian Pacific Americans
- Check out these resources from [Stop AAPI Hate](#)
- Check out a podcast by [AAPI content creators](#)
- Learn how to pronounce Asian names. This is SO important and such a small step to make those of AAPI descent feel welcome. Resource [here](#)
- Watch a [documentary](#) about AAPI culture or history. Check out the [trailer](#) for PBS' five part Asian American doc series

Must Reads about... Asian Pacific Americans



May is Asian Pacific American Month



We are accepting submissions: [Contact us](#) to contribute to this newsletter in the future.