



# THE BRIEN CENTER

Diversity • Equity • Inclusion

Your courage, our care.

## NEWSLETTER

MAY 2023

### ASIAN/PACIFIC AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

Asian and Pacific American Heritage month was the idea of former congressional staffer Jeanie Jew who first approached Rep. Frank Horton about the idea of designating a month to recognize Asian Pacific Americans, following the United States' bicentennial celebration in 1976. President Jimmy Carter signed a resolution for the celebration on Oct. 5, 1978. In 1990, George H.W. Bush signed a bill passed by Congress to extend Asian American Heritage Week to a month. On May 14, 1991, a public law was passed unanimously by Congress and then signed by Bush, proclaiming May 1991 and May 1992 as Asian and Pacific American Heritage Month. By 1992, May was officially designated as Asian Pacific American Heritage Month.

The month of May was chosen because it commemorates the migration of the first immigrants from Japan to the United States on May 7, 1843 and to celebrate the completion of the transcontinental railroad by over 20,000 Asian immigrants on May 10, 1869. However, the first Asian immigrants arrived in the U.S. in 1587 when Filipinos first began migrating to California.



### INCLUSIVE LANGUAGE HIGHLIGHT OF THE MONTH

Hip hip hooray!: While used in American English as a congratulatory cheer, the history of this term is derived from the anti-Semitic chant "Hep hep!", a rallying cry to attack Jewish people in and around the German Confederacy in 1819 during what came to be known as the "Hep-Hep riots." What to say instead: "Hooray!" or "Yay!"

### JEWISH AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

On April 20, 2006, President George W. Bush proclaimed that May would be Jewish American Heritage Month. The announcement was the crowning achievement in an effort by the Jewish Museum of Florida and South Florida Jewish community leaders that resulted in resolutions introduced by Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz of Florida and Sen. Arlen Specter of Pennsylvania urging the president to proclaim a month that would recognize the more than 350-year history of Jewish contributions to American culture. The resolutions passed unanimously, first in the House of Representatives in December 2005 and later in the Senate in February 2006.

The month of May was chosen due to the highly successful celebration of the 350th Anniversary of American Jewish History in May 2004, which was organized by the Commission for Commemorating 350 Years of American Jewish History. This coalition was composed of the Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives, the American Jewish Historical Society, the Library of Congress and the National Archives and Records Administration.



### PULSE QUESTIONNAIRE

The DEI Committee has added "Belonging" to our vision and efforts. This means we will be centering on initiatives that better foster an environment in which people feel safe to bring their whole selves and their best ideas to work. The first step in that direction is to assess where everyone presently stands. Please take a few moments to complete the **anonymous** DEIB Pulse Questionnaire below, so we can use that information to guide our initiatives going forward.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/DEIPulse2023>

Questions/Comments/Suggestions for the DEI Committee?

Contact Us: [DEI@briencenter.org](mailto:DEI@briencenter.org)