



THE BRIEN CENTER

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Your courage, our care.

NEWSLETTER

MAY 2025

ASIAN/PACIFIC AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

In 1992, Congress established May as Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month to coincide with two key milestones: the arrival of the nation's first Japanese immigrants (May 7, 1843) and Chinese workers' pivotal role in building the transcontinental railroad (completed May 10, 1869). The move expanded what had been Asian/Pacific American Heritage Week since 1978. In 2021, a presidential proclamation expanded this to include Native Hawaiians. This Facts for Features includes separate sections on the Asian and the Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander populations, which the Office of Management and Budget in 1997 split into two race categories.



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

In April 2006, President George W. Bush announced that May 2006 would be considered Jewish American Heritage Month. The announcement followed urging by the Jewish Museum of Florida and South Florida Jewish Community for a celebration of Jewish Americans and Jewish American Heritage.

The president wanted to proclaim a month that would recognize the more than 350-year history of Jewish contributions to America and the American culture. On February 14, 2006, Congress issued House Concurrent Resolution 315 which stated: "Resolved ... that Congress urges the President to issue each year a proclamation calling on State and local governments and the people of the United States to observe an American Jewish History Month with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities."



JUNETEENTH/BLACK MUSIC APPRECIATION MONTH CONCERT

3rd Annual North County Juneteenth/Black Music Appreciation Month **FREE** Concert ... celebrating Black fronted musical groups in Berkshire County (Tendai Maparutsa, Misty Blues, Sample The Cat, Diego Mongue Band (feat. Chantell).

SAVE THE DATE:

Saturday, June 14th, 2025
12pm - 3pm

LOCATION:

MCLA Church Street Center
375 Church Street - North Adams, MA

Questions/Comments/Suggestions for the DEIB Committee?
Contact Us: DEI@briencenter.org