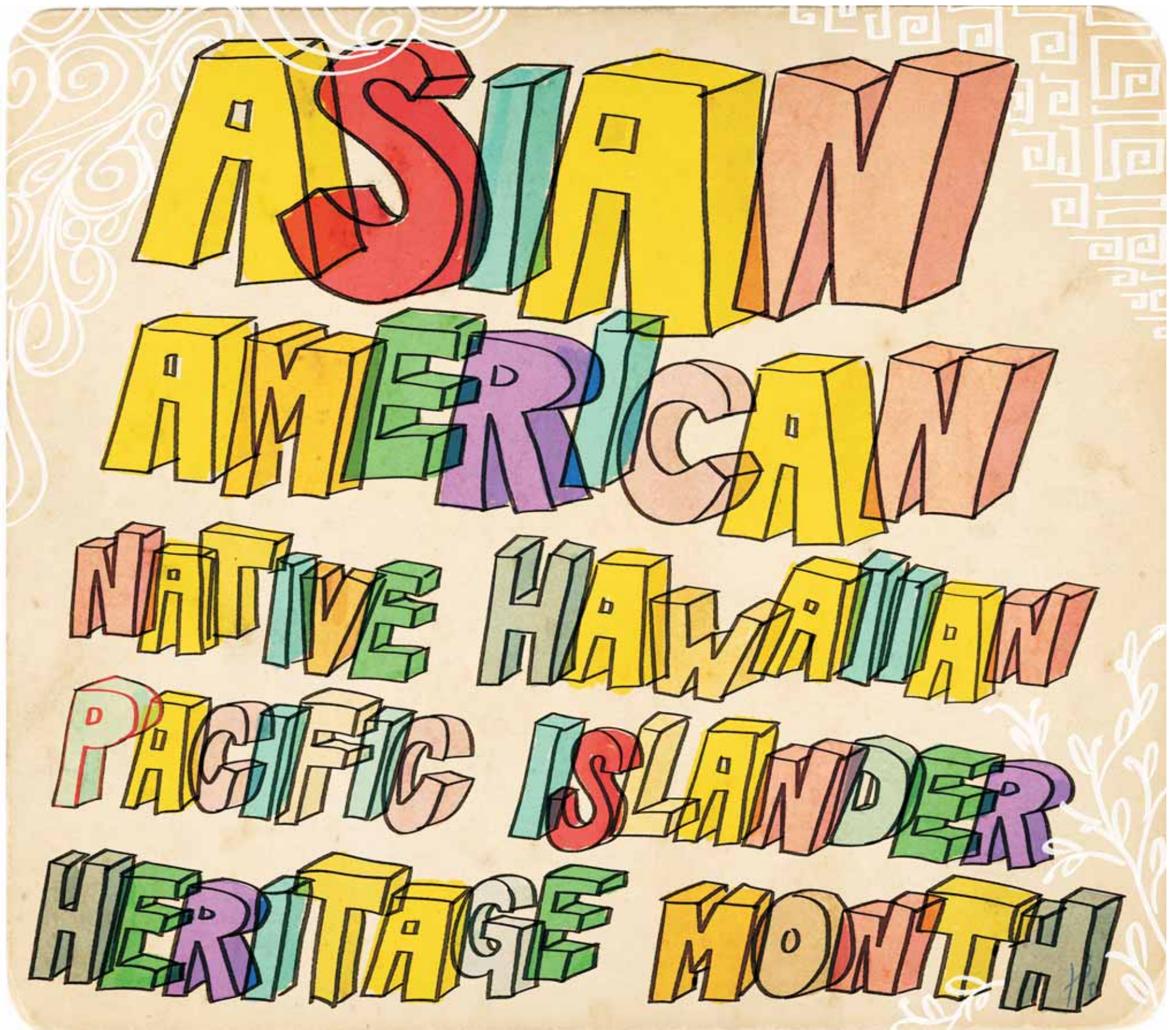


The Asian Reporter

Pacific Northwest News □ Volume 36 Number 5 □ May 4, 2026 □ www.asianreporter.com

AANHPI Heritage Month Special Issue



HONORING OUR HISTORY. During the month of May, we celebrate Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander (AANHPI) heritage. It has been more than 50 years since the U.S. government established that AANHPIs and their accomplishments should be recognized annually across the nation. What started as just one week in May has expanded over the decades into a monthlong tribute of events in cities big and small, while the nature of celebrations has evolved. AANHPI Heritage Month is not just about showcasing festive fare like food and fashion, but also hard subjects such as grief and social justice. This year's heritage month special section begins on page 9. (Illustration by Jonathan Hill)



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Celebrating Asian Heritage

The Asian Reporter celebrates Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander (AANHPI) Heritage Month with this special edition. In this issue, we mark heritage month with a look at martial artist Bruce Lee (1940-1973), who now has a U.S. Postal Service stamp that features a black-and-white painting of Lee executing his famous flying kick set against a yellow calligraphic brushstroke that is a reference to Lee's iconic yellow tracksuit in the film *The Game of Death*.

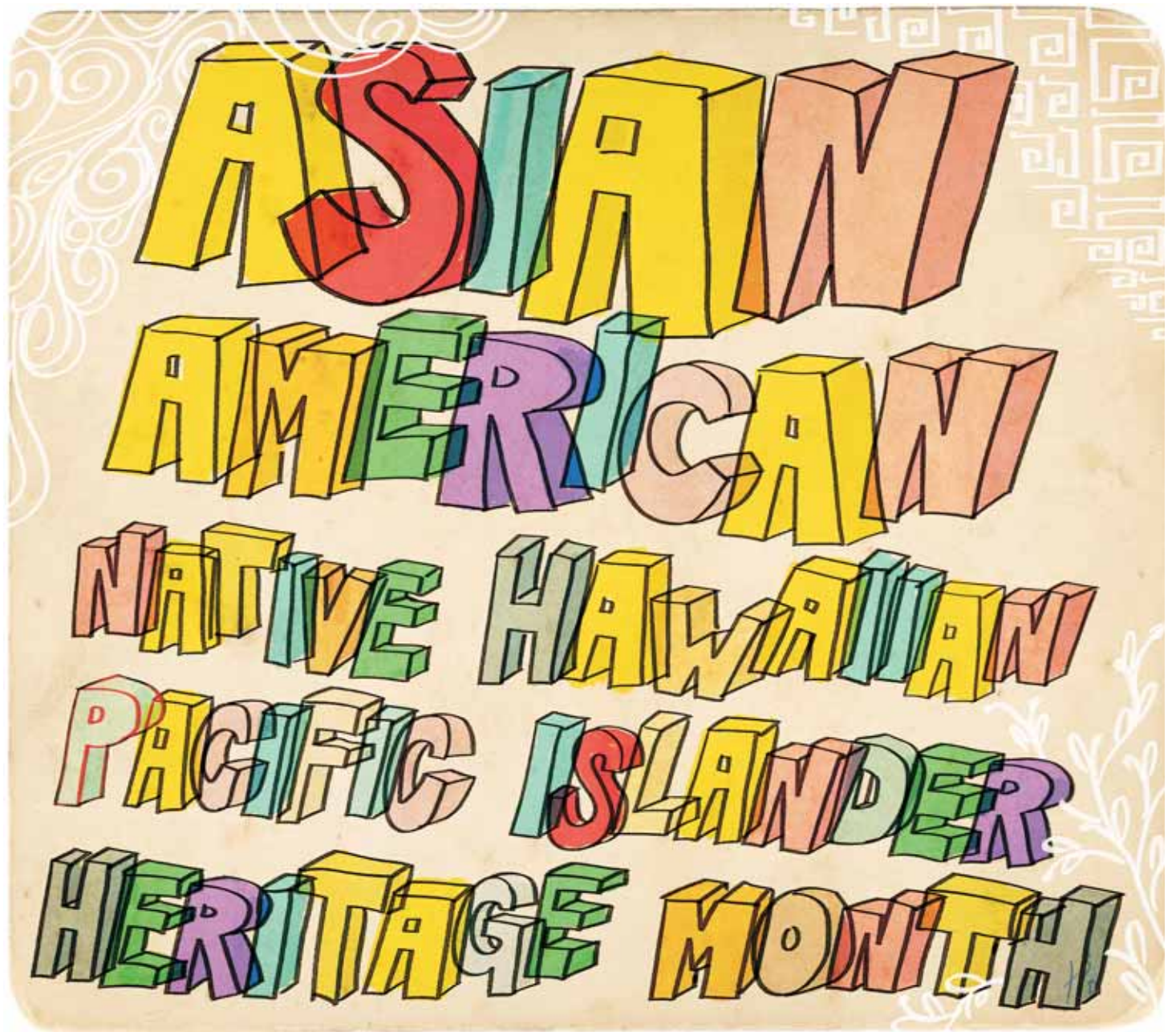
The edition next highlights "The Yasui Family: An American Story," a display at the Oregon Historical Society (OHS) Museum in downtown Portland that tells the story of the Yasui family, who established roots in Oregon, started families and businesses, and shaped the social and economic fabric of the communities where they lived.

"Many Bridges," a special invitational exhibition featuring works by 20 AANHPI artists, follows. The display, two years in the making, opens May 7 at the Blackfish Gallery in Portland.

The section continues with "Obukan Judo: A 100-Year Portland Legacy," an exhibit at the OHS Museum that honors the generations of students and instructors who have sustained the dojo for a century.

Another story brings to light the fact that Asian surnames have been the fastest-growing in the U.S., according to a Census Bureau report. Also, efforts to require Asian American history be taught in schools is starting to pay off, following years of increased anti-Asian hate.

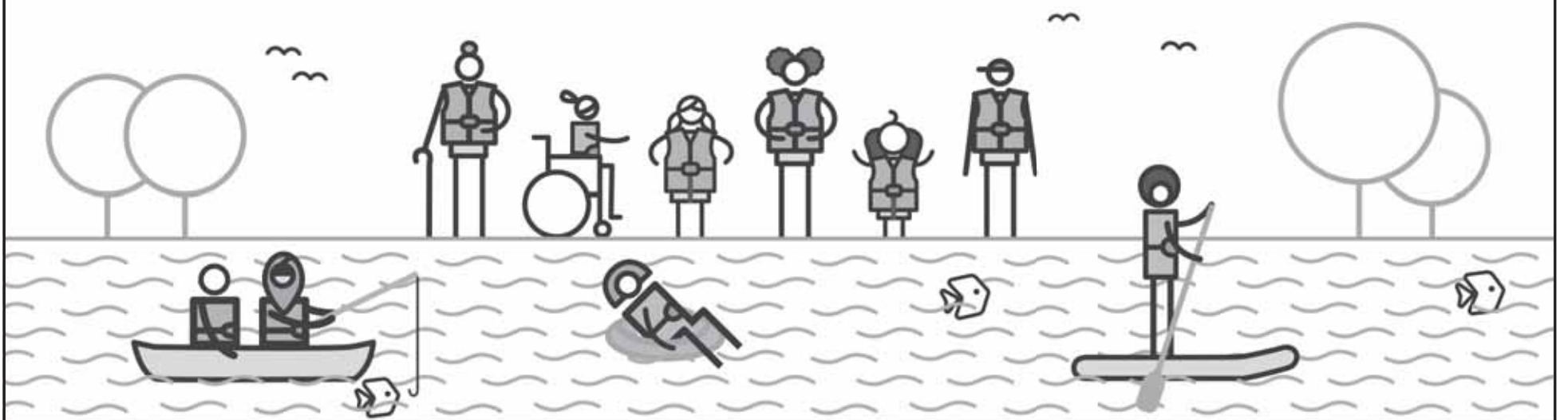
Finally, our expanded events calendar provides a monthlong guide to Asian art, history, culture, and entertainment.



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U.S. Postal Service celebrates martial arts icon Bruce Lee with a forever stamp

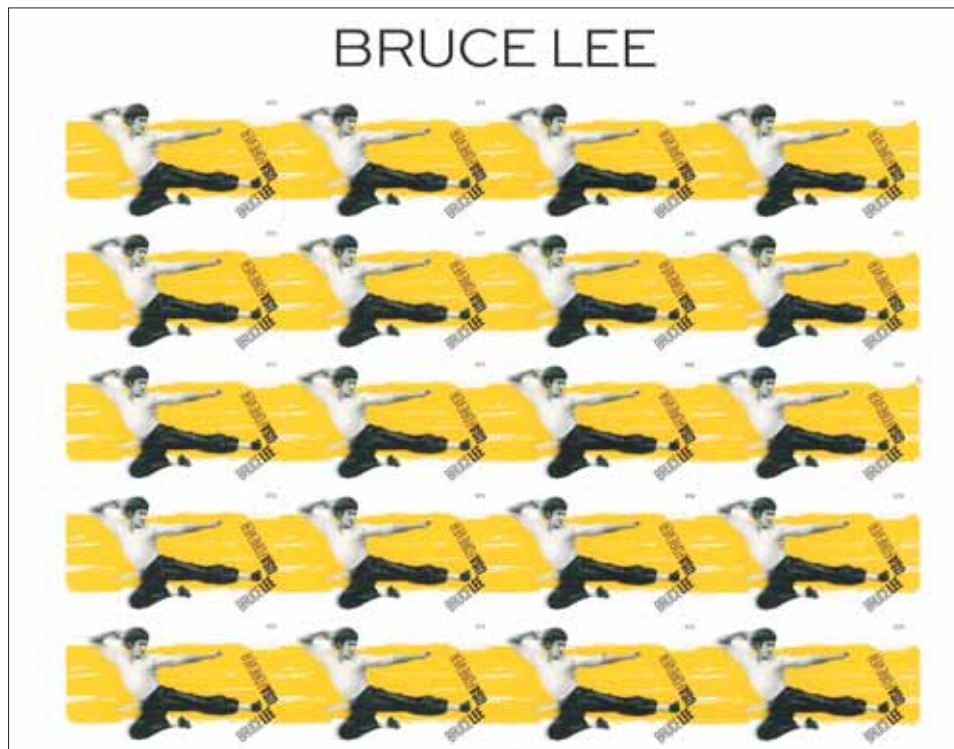
By **Kathleen Liermann**
The Asian Reporter

At a ceremony at the Nippon Kan Theater in Seattle earlier this year, martial arts icon Bruce Lee (1940-1973) was honored and celebrated by the U.S. Postal Service (USPS) with a new forever stamp.

The stamp, by artist Kam Mak, features a black-and-white painting of Lee executing his famous flying kick set against a yellow calligraphic brushstroke on a white background. According to USPS, the brushstroke is a reference to Lee's iconic yellow tracksuit in the film *The Game of Death*, which was released years after his death. On the right side of the stamp printed vertically and slightly angled are Lee's name and the words "USA" and "FOREVER," arranged to appear as if the flying kick is breaking them in half.

Known as Hollywood's first Asian American leading man, Lee was a celebrated box office star in Hong Kong well before he dazzled American moviegoers. Shannon Lee, Bruce's daughter, said her father's life was about breaking through barriers and bringing people together along the way.

"He was mesmerizing to watch. Unlike the theatrical, acrobatic kung fu that came before, Lee's movements were economical, explosive, and real," said Ben Kuo of USPS, who spoke at the ceremony. "Bruce Lee has earned this special tribute because he wasn't just an action film star who could fight — he was a philosopher who could think and a teacher who inspired



millions."

Others attending the unveiling were Lee's daughter Shannon; Sue Ann Kay, a former student and friend of Lee; and journalist Jeff Chang. Serving as master of ceremonies was Mimi Gan, representing Seattle's Wing Luke Museum of the Asian Pacific American Experience. Genelia Lai performed the national anthem and the American Legion Cathay Post 186 served as color guard for the day.

Bruce's "legacy is one of resilience, self-mastery, and flow that resonates and connects people across multiple demographics, which is why this stamp is such a

profoundly perfect touchpoint and a true honor, especially at this moment in time," said Shannon, who is CEO of Bruce Lee Enterprises. "Our family is deeply grateful to the USPS for choosing to recognize Bruce Lee, and we are excited to see his kicks flying all across the country on our mail."

Lee Jun Fan was born at Jackson Street Hospital in San Francisco on November 27, 1940, while his father, Lee Hoi Chuen, a singer and actor from Hong Kong, and mother, Grace Ho, were in the United States on an extended tour with the Chinese Opera.

Their son, who had dual citizenship, received a Cantonese name as well as an American one suggested by a person at the hospital who helped delivered him — Bruce. Bruce had two older sisters, Phoebe and Agnes, an older brother, Peter, and a younger brother, Robert. The family returned to Hong Kong when Bruce was just three months old.

With family connections in the Hong Kong film industry, Bruce appeared in more than 20 films as a child, with his first lead role at age 10. His stage name was Li Xiao Long, or "Lee the Little Dragon," because he was born in both the Hour of the Dragon — between 6:00am and 8:00am — and the Year of the Dragon in Chinese astrology. At age 13, he began learning wing chun gung fu under renowned wing chun master, Yip Man, studying diligently for five years. He also became an expert boxer and competitor in cha-cha dancing.

Bruce took a steamship back to the

HONORING AN ICON. Martial arts icon Bruce Lee (1940-1973) was honored and celebrated by the U.S. Postal Service with a new forever stamp earlier this year. The stamp, by artist Kam Mak, features a black-and-white painting of Lee executing his famous flying kick set against a yellow calligraphic brushstroke on a white background.

United States at age 18. He went to San Francisco then made his way to Seattle, where he worked in the restaurant of a family friend. After earning the equivalent of a high school diploma at Edison Technical School, he majored in philosophy at the University of Washington and taught martial arts on the side, eventually opening his first school, the Jun Fan Gung Fu Institute. Two more schools followed in Oakland and Los Angeles.

Bruce opened the Oakland school and also married his wife, Linda Emery, in 1964. The couple would eventually have two children, Brandon in 1965 and Shannon in 1969.

At an exhibition at the Long Beach Internationals in the mid-'60s, Bruce demonstrated the "one-inch punch" technique, which enabled him to strike an opponent at close range with extraordinary force. A celebrity hairstylist and martial arts enthusiast, Jay Sebring, happened to be part of the crowd at the competition.

Sebring was in awe of Lee's remarkably chiselled frame, lightning-fast hands and feet, and zen-like composure — quite the combination. A few months later, when a producer-friend was looking for a Chinese actor, Sebring told him about Bruce Lee and his abilities.

In Hollywood, this was groundbreaking, as Asian roles usually went to Caucasian actors, with Asian actors rarely given a chance. William Dozier, a producer, gave Lee a screen test in 1965.

Lee's first major American role was in the television version of "The Green Hornet," which aired on ABC from September 1966 through March 1967. Bruce played Kato, the title character's martial arts partner. After one season, the TV program in the United States was cancelled, but it caught on in Hong Kong, where it became known as "The Kato Show."

Bruce tired of the resistance he encountered in Hollywood and headed to Hong Kong. In Hong Kong he made three films, which broke box office records and showcased martial arts in an entirely new way. There, he choreographed movie fight scenes and appeared on television shows.

Bruce was developing his own martial

Continued on page 17

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OHS highlights the Yasui Family's American Story

By Jody Lim
The Asian Reporter

The Oregon Historical Society (OHS) Museum in downtown Portland is currently featuring “The Yasui Family: An American Story,” a display that tells the story of the Yasui family, who were among the millions of immigrants who first came to the United States seeking new opportunities during the late 1800s and early 1900s. The family established roots in Oregon, started families and businesses, and shaped the social and economic fabric of the communities where they lived.

The exhibit is packed with artifacts, information, and history — too much to include here — so setting some time aside to visit the museum in person to take it all in is definitely warranted.

To visitors' benefit, the Yasui family carefully documented and preserved their history. Included in the display are photographs, belongings, business records, family papers, personal journals, and much more that show how the Yasui family story is intricate and at the same time similar to other Americans' stories.

The Yasui family's American story began in the mid-1890s, when Shinataro Yasui and his son Taiitsuro Yasui travelled to America. Masuo Yasui, the youngest son of Shinataro and his wife Tsuya, made his way to the United States in 1903 at the age of 16.

Issei (first-generation Japanese immigrants) began arriving on the West Coast in the 1880s as part of a wave of Japanese migration around the world. The migration overlapped with the 1882 Chinese Exclusion Act, which banned the entry of new immigrants from China and denied citizenship for those already in the U.S.

The discrimination and prejudice against Chinese immigrants, many whom worked as laborers, is represented in the exhibit with, among other items, signs and publications proclaiming “The Chinese Must Go!”

With the law in place, the labor market opened to laborers from Japan, specifically single, male, Japanese citizens who were looking to make money in the U.S. before returning home.

Masuo Yasui worked for Oregon Short Line for two years. Railroad jobs often involved long hours of physically difficult work. Masuo described the experience as physically, mentally, and emotionally challenging. There's a metal monkey wrench from a railroad handcar, circa 1900, and a story that are part of the exhibit.

Masuo arrived in Portland in 1905, adding to its growing Japantown neighborhood (known as Nihonmachi), which included hotels, laundries, restaurants, bathhouses, and grocery stores.

Following a trip to Hood River in 1907, Masuo discovered business opportunities available in the town, which had an established community of Japanese immigrants who worked in agriculture and logging.

According to family stories, Masuo was also drawn to Hood River because of the beauty of the Columbia Gorge and snow-covered Mount Hood, which reminded him of familiar landscapes in Japan.

By the spring of 1908, Masuo and his brother Renichi Fujimoto moved to Hood River to open a store called Yasui Bros. Co. to sell Japanese and western goods such as tea, rice, coffee, baking powder, and ice cream, as well as flashlights, dolls, sandals, lunch boxes, watch cases, and bird feeders.

Masuo and Renichi's Hood River store was not the first to carry Japanese goods

and offer various services, but they were the most successful and it became a hub for the town's growing Issei community. Among the many enterprises the family was involved in were selling American Express money orders and life insurance, booking passenger tickets for steamships headed to Japan, and renting out the second floor of the store.

Yasui Bros. Co. operated for only 34 years, unfortunately, because it was shut down permanently by the U.S. Treasury Department following the 1941 attack by Japan on Pearl Harbor.

When Masuo first settled in Hood River, apple orchards occupied about ten percent of the available farmland. The temperate climate, rich volcanic soil, and access to water in the Hood River Valley were ideal for farming, especially fruits and berries.

Growers sold Hood River apples at local markets and also shipped them across the country. They won awards for their fruit and also the innovative way they were shipped — in crates.

Japanese farmers in Oregon introduced several crops — celery, strawberries, and asparagus — to the region. In addition, the Yasui family was quite successful buying and leasing land for farming apples, pears, and other fruits and vegetables.

Masuo was involved in organizations that supported Hood River agriculture, including helping form the Japanese Farmers Association of Hood River, an organization to help market strawberries, in 1916. He also helped organize the Mid-Columbia Vegetable Growers Association, a cooperative that assisted with the packing and shipping of asparagus, in 1927.

Masuo encouraged his fellow Issei to stay in the United States and offered to help them buy land for farming despite the ongoing anti-Asian racist sentiments in Oregon. Outside of Multnomah County, Hood River had the largest Japanese agricultural settlement in Oregon and the community became a hotbed for exclusionist movements by white citizens such as the Anti-Alien League and the Anti-Asiatic Association that advocated for laws to prohibit Issei living in Oregon from purchasing land.

Unfortunately, the success of Japanese agricultural enterprises made them targets for racist attacks. White legislators, with the backing of the American Legion, Ku Klux Klan, and Oregon governor Walter Pierce, also tried to hamper their businesses by introducing various bills to prohibit the Japanese from owning land and businesses. In 1923, the Alien Land Law and the Alien Business Restriction Law were passed.

The Issei, including Masuo and Renichi, were barred from becoming U.S. citizens until 1952. The 14th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution gave birthright citizenship to their children born in the United States, making them American citizens. During World War II, anti-Japanese agitators waged legal battles aimed at stripping Nisei of their birthright citizenship. Those attempts ultimately failed.

Life for people of Japanese descent changed dramatically when Japan bombed Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941. The bombing inflamed existing anti-Japanese propaganda and led to further violence and exclusion.

The day after the Pearl Harbor attack, the Yasui Bros. Co. Store was shut down. Renichi was briefly allowed to reopen the store for a monthlong liquidation sale, but the store closed its doors on April 18, 1942. It never reopened.

Several weeks after the Pearl Harbor attack, on February 19, 1942, U.S. President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066. The U.S. military



OREGON PIONEERS. “The Yasui Family: An American Story,” a display about how the Yasui family established roots in Oregon, started families and businesses, and shaped the social and economic fabric of the communities where they lived, is on view through September 6, 2026 at the Oregon Historical Society Museum in Portland. Pictured are Masuo Yasui (far left on the wall photo), a strawberry plow (on the ground), and a strawberry carrier (far right), along with other items. (Photo courtesy of the Oregon Historical Society Research Library)

enacted curfews, followed by notices of property and belongings and prepare to removal. By the spring of 1942, Oregon leave — with less than a week to comply. Nikkei were instructed to dispose of their

Continued on page 13



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“Many Bridges” opens May 7 at Blackfish Gallery

Two years in the making, “Many Bridges,” a special invitational exhibition featuring Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander (AANHPI) artists, opens Thursday, May 7, at northwest Portland’s Blackfish Gallery. An opening reception, scheduled for First Thursday at 5:00pm, kicks off the display.

Blackfish member and ceramic artist Ruri spearheaded the exhibit, which celebrates AANHPI Heritage Month. Ruri invited 19 artists from the Mashiko Ceramics and Arts Association (MCAA) and the Pacific Northwest to contribute to the project, with each artist showing their heritage — whether consciously or subconsciously reflected in their art works — connecting culture and people, and acting as a soaring bridge.

The 10 artists from MCAA include Emiko Asada, Douglas Black, Andrew Gemrich, Ikuzo Fujiwara, Akihiko Ishijima, Masayuki Miyajima, Yoshiji Onuki, Kei Shimaoka, Ryo Suzuki, and Satoshi Yokoo.

Pacific Northwest artists include Robert Dozono, Yuji Hiratsuka, mai ide, Limei Lai, Palmarin Merges, Kanani Miyamoto, Satoko Motouji, Roberta Wong, Kanetaka Ikeda, and Ruri.

The works on display were created by artists representing centuries of experience in many genres. Some are installation artists, printmakers, conceptual artists, and other artistic specialists. The pieces include drawings, mixed-media interactive visual art, sewing, paintings, abstract and pictorial compositions, clay sculptures, multidisciplinary art, and other mixed-media



CREATING BRIDGES. Two years in the making, “Many Bridges,” a special invitational exhibition featuring works by 20 AANHPI artists, opens May 7 at the Blackfish Gallery in Portland. Pictured are (L-R) “Tree of Life in All Seasons: Early Spring,” by Kanetaka Ikeda, mix-media assemblage, 47” x 45” x 36”, and “Hot Club Sale,” by Yuji Hiratsuka, intaglio and chine collé, 24” x 18”. (Images courtesy of the artists)



works.

In addition to First Thursday on May 7, an artist talk and reception is scheduled for May 17 from 2:00pm to 5:00pm and the closing reception featuring a koto performance by Masumi Timson will be held May 24 from 3:00pm to 5:00pm.

Other cultural exchanges related to “Many Bridges” include a tea ceremony and talk using tea bowls made by

MCAA participating artists on May 20 at 2:00pm in the Cathy Rudd Cultural Corner at the Portland Japanese Garden (611 S.W. Kingston Avenue in Portland). On May 22 from 10:00am to 4:00pm, a demonstration and workshop by Yoshiji Onuki, Andrew Gemrich, and Douglas Black takes place at the Mt. Hood Community College Ceramics Department (26000 S.E. Stark Street in Gresham, Oregon).

“Many Bridges” is featured at the Blackfish Gallery, located at 938 N.W. Everett Street in Portland, through May 30. Regular hours are 11:00am to 5:00pm, Wednesday through Sunday. To learn more, call (503) 224-2634 or visit <www.blackfish.com>.

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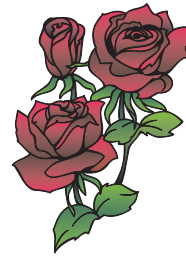
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Heritage Month calendar

Organizations and others are holding events in celebration of Heritage Month. Some activities include:

“Oregon’s Nikkei: An American Story of Resilience”

Currently on view, 10am-4pm (Wed-Sat), 11am-4pm (Sun), Japanese American Museum of Oregon at the Naito Center (411 NW Flanders St, Portland). View “Oregon’s Nikkei: An American Story of Resilience,” an exhibit that highlights the discrimination, resilience, and identity of the Japanese American community in Oregon. The display begins in rural Oregon and the streets of Portland’s Japantown where Japanese immigrants embraced American ideals. What they built was abruptly taken away during World War II when people of Japanese descent were imprisoned in American internment camps. From early immigration through current day, the exhibit explores the Japanese American experience and includes the rebuilding of communities and the ongoing fight for justice. For info, or to purchase tickets, call (503) 224-1458 or visit <www.jamo.org>.



CELEBRATING AANHPI HERITAGE. AANHPI Heritage Month events at Lan Su Chinese Garden are featured through May 31. Festivities include Cultural Immersion Saturdays, a “Taste of Home, Where the Heart Belongs” cooking demonstration, the “Threading Together” exhibit, performances (pictured), and more. (Photos courtesy of Lan Su Chinese Garden)

A Tale of Portland’s Historic Chinatowns”

Currently on view, 11am-3pm (Thu-Sun), Portland Chinatown Museum (127 NW Third Ave, Portland). View “Beyond the Gate: A Tale of Portland’s Historic Chinatowns,” a display of rare objects such as Chinese opera costumes, theatrical sets, bilingual text, audio-visual media, and more that tell a sprawling transnational story of contact and trade between China and the west, focusing on Portland’s Old Chinatown (1850-1905) and New Chinatown (1905-1950). For info, or to purchase tickets, call (503) 224-0008 or visit <www.portlandchinatownmuseum.org>.

“New Years All Year Round”

Currently on display, 10am-5pm (Wed-Sun), Wing Luke Museum of the Asian Pacific American Experience (719 S King St, Seattle). View “New Years All Year Round,” a fun, family-friendly exhibit that looks at the origins of New Year traditions, colors, cuisine, and more, including lion dances, drums, and firecrackers. The display features new works from artist Nina Vichayapai, new community-submitted stories, and a refresh honoring the Year of the Fire Horse. For info, or to purchase tickets, call (206) 623-5124 or visit <www.wingluke.org>.

“Be Water, My Friend: The Teachings of Bruce Lee”

Currently on view, 10am-5pm (Wed-Sun), Wing Luke Museum of the Asian Pacific American Experience (719 S King St, Seattle). View “Be Water, My Friend: The Teachings of Bruce Lee,” an interactive exhibit that invites viewers to step into the mind, body, and spirit of Bruce Lee to see how his unquenchable pursuit of knowledge informed his philosophy and life. The display follows Bruce’s path, beginning with his revelations on

water, through the wealth of knowledge found in his 2,800-book personal library, to his philosophy of self-understanding and self-expression. For info, or to purchase tickets, call (206) 623-5124 or visit <www.wingluke.org>. See related story on page 10.

Satpreet Kahlon

Through May 23, 2-8pm (Thu), noon-6pm (Fri), noon-4pm (Sat), Portland Institute for Contemporary Art (15 NE Hancock St, Portland). Attend “an imagined place (here and now),” an exhibit by Satpreet Kahlon at the Portland Institute for Contemporary Art (PICA). The display features immersive audio, reflected video fields, and photograph-based sculptures with images from the artist’s personal archive. For info, call (503) 242-1419 or visit <www.pica.org>.

AANHPI Heritage Month at Lan Su

Through May 31, 10am-6:30pm (daily), Lan Su Chinese Garden (239 NW Everett St, Portland). Attend “Celebrate Our Stories” events at Lan Su Chinese Garden during Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander (AANHPI) Heritage Month. Festivities include Cultural Immersion Saturdays, which highlight different cultures (May 9: Vietnam; May 16: India; May 23: China; May 30: Pacific Islanders), and “Taste of Home, Where the Heart Belongs,” a Chinese homestyle cooking demonstration with culinary expert Anna Xu (May 23, 11:00am to 12:30pm). Another feature is “Threading Together,” an exhibit of traditional clothing and attire; the participating

countries for 2026 are Thailand, Polynesia, China, Japan, Korea, India, Cambodia, and the Philippines. Other programming includes a Mother’s Day special event on Sunday, May 10 (10:00am to 6:00pm), as well as music, dance, opera, drama, and acrobatics by Inner Mongolia Art Theatre on May 14 (1:00pm to 3:00pm). For info, or to purchase tickets, call (503) 228-8131 or visit <www.lansugarden.org/celebrate-our-stories>.

“Minidoka on Our Minds”

Through June 14, 10am-4pm (Wed-Sat), 11am-4pm (Sun), Japanese American Museum of Oregon at the Naito Center (411 NW Flanders St, Portland). View “Minidoka on Our Minds,” an exhibit celebrating 25 years of preservation of the Minidoka National Historic Site, where many Nikkei from Oregon and Washington were forcibly incarcerated during World War II. The display features artwork by survivors, descendants, and Japanese American youth that highlight the park’s history and its importance as a site of memory. For info, or to purchase tickets, call (503) 224-1458 or visit <www.jamo.org>.

“Enduring Impressions: Contemporary Woodblock Prints”

Through June 15, 10am-5:30pm (Wed-Mon), Portland Japanese Garden (611 SW Kingston Ave, Portland). View “Enduring Impressions: Contemporary Woodblock Prints,” an exhibit featuring the art of mokuhanaga, a Japanese style of

Continued on page 14

OHS highlights the Yasui Family’s American Story

Continued from page 11

People of Japanese descent, both legal residents and American citizens, were uprooted and imprisoned.

Incarceration during World War II took an enormous mental and emotional toll. Many lost their homes, property, and businesses. Communities such as Hood River took a strong stance against people returning, so many, including Masuo and his wife Shidzuyo, moved to Portland.

When the McCarran-Walter Immigration and Naturalization Act finally passed in 1952, Masuo organized classes to prepare Issei to become American citizens. He was, however, greatly affected by feelings of shame, fear, and suspicion that came from being unjustly imprisoned and he ultimately took his own life in 1957.

In the decades after the incarceration, Japanese Americans fought for restoration of their civil rights, monetary compensation, and most importantly, an apology from the U.S. government. With the passage of the Civil Liberties Act of 1988, a formal apology was given along with \$20,000 in monetary compensation to every surviving U.S. citizen or legal resident of Japanese ancestry incarcerated during World War II. Sadly, by the time of its passage, many former internees had already died.

Other topics covered in the display include Minoru Yasui and others taking the U.S. to court, the creation of A Day of Remembrance in the late 1970s, artwork created as part of the Minoru Yasui Legacy Project student contest, and much more. Throughout the exhibit, despite suffering racism, discrimination, and even incarceration, the Yasui family endured and advocated for justice and liberty.

There’s a short video just inside the entrance to the exhibit that features footage from 1986 of a Yasui family reunion at the family’s barn. I actually did



OUR AMERICAN STORY. Along one wall of “The Yasui Family: An American Story” exhibit is a photograph of the Yasui Bros. Co. store in Hood River with every shelf filled with products available for sale. (Photo courtesy of the Oregon Historical Society Research Library)

not stop to look at the video on my way in, but definitely enjoyed watching it before leaving, as it included many of the items I’d just seen in person.

Visitors may also watch an 8-minute, 16-second short film called *Matsutake*. Directed by Theodore Caleb Haas and produced by Mari Hayman, it features 95-year-old Homer Yasui and family members participating in a matsutake mushroom hunting adventure.

Everyone — youth and adults — can learn from the life experiences highlighted in “The Yasui Family: An American Story.” The artifacts, stories, and historical perspective are amazing. There’s so much more to this exhibit than can be included in this story, so plan a visit to see the display before it closes.

“The Yasui Family: An American Story” is on view at the Oregon Historical Society Museum, which is located at 1200 S.W. Park Avenue in Portland, through September 6, 2026. Admission to the museum is free for Multnomah County residents. For more information, or to purchase tickets, please call (503) 222-1741 or visit <www.ohs.org>.

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Heritage Month calendar

Continued from page 13

woodblock printmaking that uses wood, water-based pigments, and paper made from plant fibers. The display reveals how the centuries-old tradition is experiencing a contemporary revival as artists around the world use the quiet power and unique characteristics of woodblock printmaking to create captivating works of art. For info, or to purchase tickets, call (503) 223-1321 or visit <www.japanesegarden.com>.

“Threading Together: AANHPI Traditional Attire Exhibit”

Through June 21, 10am-6:30pm (daily), Lan Su Chinese Garden (239 NW Everett St, Portland). Attend “Threading Together,” an exhibit of traditional clothing and attire, this year featuring garments from Thailand, Polynesia, China, Japan, Korea, India, Cambodia, and the Philippines. Clothing is a powerful expression of culture, reflecting history, identity, and tradition through form, color, and pattern. Each Friday from 1:00pm to 4:00pm, special interactive sessions — “Threading Together Show & Tell” — explore the stories behind traditional garments and how clothing reflects identity, heritage, and artistry (May 8: Korea; May 15: The Philippines; May 22: China; May 29: Japan). For info, or to purchase tickets, call (503) 228-8131 or visit <www.lansugarden.org>.

Umico Niwa

Through July 3, 11am-5pm (Wed-Sat), ILY2 Portland (925 NW Flanders St, Portland). Attend an exhibit by Japan-born artist Umico Niwa at ILY2 Portland. For info, e-mail <info@ily2online.com> or visit <www.ily2online.com>.

Charlene Liu: “Scallion”

Through July 31, 10am-7pm (Thu), 10am-5pm (Fri-Sun), Henry Art Gallery (15th Ave NE & NE 41st St, Seattle). View “Scallion,” a mural presentation by Charlene Liu located in the Sculpture Court at the Henry Art Gallery. The work builds on her ongoing engagement with food as a means to locate culture and heritage amidst diaspora. Rendered in a fluid, multi-layered, visual language, the landscape offers a portal to reflect on how culinary traditions build belonging in place and playfully celebrates the importance of shared food experiences. For info, call (206) 543-2280 or visit <www.henryart.org>.

“Pacific Islanders: Navigators of the Sea”

Through July 31, 10am-5pm (Tue-Fri), World Beat Gallery (390 Liberty St SE, Second Floor, Salem, Ore.). View “Pacific Islanders: Navigators of the Sea,” an exhibit about the art, dance, music, and settlement of people in the Pacific Islands. The display includes weavings, fabric arts, carvings, and cultural artifacts, and a large portion of the gallery focuses on some of the dances of the Pacific Islands, such as Samoa, Tahiti, Aotearoa (New Zealand), Hawai'i, Tonga, Fiji, and the Marshall Islands. For info, call (503) 581-2004 or visit <www.salemmulticultural.org>.

“The Yasui Family: An American Story”

Through Sep 6, 10am-5pm (Mon-Sat), noon-5pm (Sun), Oregon Historical Society Museum (1200 SW Park Ave, Portland). View “The Yasui Family: An American Story,” a display that tells the story of the Yasui family, who were among the millions of immigrants who came to the United States seeking new opportunities during the late 1800s and early 1900s. They established roots in Oregon, started families and businesses, and shaped the social and economic fabric of the communities where they lived. Following the 1941 attack on Pearl Harbor during World War II, the U.S. government forcibly removed more than 110,000 Japanese Americans — including U.S. citizens — from their homes and imprisoned them in internment camps, often in harsh, remote areas. After the war,



BonsaiFEST! Immerse yourself in the beauty and serenity of bonsai culture at BonsaiFEST! The gathering, which takes place May 9 and 10 at the Pacific Bonsai Museum in Federal Way, Washington, features hundreds of living works of art, live bonsai-making demonstrations, guided tours, games, food trucks, shopping, and more. (Photo courtesy of the Pacific Bonsai Museum)

many members of the Yasui family returned to Oregon, although some incarcerated chose not to return home due to persistent racism in their communities. While the Yasui family endured racism and incarceration, they also shared a commitment to equal justice through engagement with the local, state, and national forces that determined — and withheld — their civil rights. Through photographs, personal journals, documents, and objects, the exhibit explores how one Japanese American family's story reflects the complexity of the American story. For info, or to purchase tickets, call (503) 222-1741 or visit <www.ohs.org>. See story on page 11.

Voices of Change 2026

May 7, 5:30-8pm, World Forestry Center (4033 SW Canyon Rd, Portland). Attend Voices of Change, the annual fundraiser of the Asian Pacific American Network of Oregon. The 2026 theme, “Igniting Embers,” reflects the challenges we've faced over the past year and the strength we're building as we rise together. The evening features performances by the Cambodian Dance Troupe of Oregon and DJ Anjali and The Incredible Kid with the Gulabi Gang; speakers; and more. For info, or to register, call (971) 340-4861 or visit <www.apano.org>.

“A Glimpse of China”

May 9, 10:30am-5:30pm, Seattle Center, Armory Food & Event Hall (305 Harrison St, Seattle). Attend “A Glimpse of China: Seattle Chinese Culture & Arts Festival” presented by Seattle Center Festal and the Washington Chinese Arts & Culture Committee (WCACC). The free event highlights the cultural roots and contemporary influences of China through live performances, visual arts, hands-on activities, games, a marketplace, food vendors, and more. For info, or to obtain event hours, call (206) 684-7200 or visit <www.seattlecenter.com>.

Mulan Drum Team

May 9, 1:30-2:30pm, Holgate Library, (7905 SE Holgate Blvd, Portland). Celebrate AANHPI Heritage Month with the Mulan Drum Team, an all-women drumming group with members from diverse backgrounds. For info, call (503) 988-5123 or visit <events.multcolib.org>.

Densho Community Preservation Day

May 9, 1:30-5pm, Bellevue Library Makerspace (1111 110th Ave NE, Bellevue, Wash.). Attend Densho Community Preservation Day, a DIY preservation workshop at which Densho and King County Library System Memory Lab staff share tips for preserving and archiving family photographs, home videos, documents, and mementos. Community members with materials specifically related to the World War II-era incarceration of Japanese Americans are invited to share these invaluable objects with Densho. Densho is providing a mobile digitization kit to scan historical photos, documents, and other materials for inclusion in their online archives. The workshop is open to participants age 18 and older; registration is required. For info, call (425) 450-1765. To register (required), visit <https://kcls.biblicommons.com/events/69d6a29f8ddec1caf5f1ba1c8>.

The Orchid Trio

May 9, 2-3pm, Multnomah County Central Library (801 SW 10th Ave, Portland). Attend a free concert of classical music with a spring theme by The Orchid Trio in celebration of AANHPI Heritage Month. The Orchid Trio features violinist Siying Ge, violist Deborah Shuster, and cellist Quinn Liu. For info, call (503) 988-5123 or visit <events.multcolib.org>.

Origami Spring Flowers

May 9, 2-3:30pm, Midland Library (805 SE 122nd Ave, Portland). Learn how to make origami flowers with origami artist Yuki Martin. Participants transform ordinary pieces of paper

into three-dimensional forms — paper tulips, trilliums, cherry blossoms, and more. For info, call (503) 988-5123 or visit <events.multcolib.org>.

Lone Fir Memorial open studio hours

May 9, 2-4pm, GeekEasy Anime Café (310 NW Davis St, Portland). Attend open studio hours featuring the Lone Fir Memorial artist team — Qi You and Sophia Xiao-fan Austrins. All community members are welcome to attend to talk with the artists and ask questions. For info, call (503) 797-1700, e-mail <lonefirgarden@oregonmetro.gov>, or visit <www.oregonmetro.gov/lonefirgarden>.

AAPI Night at the Portland Timbers

May 9, 7:30pm, Providence Park (SW 18th Ave & SW Morrison St, Portland). Watch the Portland Timbers take on Sporting Kansas City in Major League Soccer action as part of AAPI Night. The National Anthem for the match will be performed by Rachel Wong and other celebrations are held throughout the stadium. For info, or to purchase tickets, call (503) 553-5555 or visit <www.portlandtimbers.com>.

BonsaiFEST!

May 9-10, 10am-4pm, Pacific Bonsai Museum (2515 S 336th St, Federal Way, Wash.). Immerse yourself in the beauty and serenity of bonsai culture at the free, family-friendly BonsaiFEST! The gathering features hundreds of living works of art, live bonsai-making demonstrations, guided tours, games, food trucks, shopping, an arts and coloring tent for children, and more. Free admission for attendees is courtesy of 4Culture. For info, or to purchase tickets, call (253) 353-7345 or visit <www.pacificbonsaimuseum.org>.

Bollywood Family Dance Party

May 9 & 16; May 9, 3-4pm, Hollywood Library (4040 NE Tillamook St, Portland); May 16, 2-3pm, Hillsdale Library (1525 SW Sunset Blvd, Portland). Attend a Bollywood Family Dance Party as part of AANHPI Heritage Month festivities. Participants learn dance moves that will teleport you into a Bollywood world full of possibilities and big smiles, complete with the authentic Indian head shake. All skill levels are welcome. For info, call (503) 988-5123 or visit <events.multcolib.org>.

“Re-Rite” Musical

May 9 & 16, 5-9pm; May 9, APANO (12655 SW Center St, Beaverton, Ore.); May 16, Filipino Bayanihan Center (1537 SE Morrison St, Portland). Attend the “Re-Rite” Musical, an original Asian-American musical that reimagines South and Southeast Asian traditional dance music through contemporary, beat-driven songs and storytelling. For more info, call (971) 221-7070 or visit <www.filamfestpdx.com>.

AANHPI Speakers Panel

May 12, 4:30-7pm, Portland State University, Karl Miller Center (1828 SW Broadway, Portland). Attend an AANHPI Speakers Panel presented by API Forward, the Filipino American Northwest Association, and FilAmFest Portland. The panel is held from 4:30pm to 5:30pm and a networking social follows. Moderated by Christian Anicete and Anna Lyra Venaglia, the event features Dean Qing Hu of the Portland State University School of Business, Dr. Arlene Binoya-Strugar of the Naturelle WellEarth Foundation, Jhus Custodio of Re-Rite and the Portland Trail Blazers, Phuong Nguyen of OnPoint Credit Union, and Prasenjit Tito Chowdhury of FashionXT. For more info, call (971) 221-7070 or visit <www.filamfestpdx.com>.

J Chen Project's AAPI Heroes

May 12 & 16; May 12, 5:30-6:30pm, Multnomah County Central Library (801 SW 10th Ave, Portland); May 16, 2:30-3:30pm, Midland Library (805 SE 122nd Ave, Portland). Attend an inspiring performance by the J Chen Project, a dance company based in New York City, as part of AANHPI Heritage Month festivities. For info, call (503) 988-5123 or visit <events.multcolib.org>. To learn more, visit <www.jchenproject.com>.

Keiki Stories

May 12 & 17; May 12, 6:30-7:30pm, Holgate Library, (7905 SE Holgate Blvd, Portland); May 17, 3-4pm, Northwest Library (2030 NW Pettygrove St, Portland). Celebrate Native Hawaiian culture and traditions making crafts and listening to keiki stories with Ka 'Aha Lahui O 'Olekona Hawaiian Civic Club of Oregon & SW Washington. For info, call (503) 988-5123 or visit <events.multcolib.org>. To learn more, visit <www.kalohcc.org>.

AAPI Night with the Hillsboro Hops

May 14, 6:35pm, Hops Ballpark, Gordon Faber Recreation Complex (4530 NE Century Blvd, Hillsboro, Ore.). Watch the Hillsboro Hops take on the Spokane Indians on AAPI Night. By using access code “HOMERUN” when ordering tickets, a \$5 donation will be made to APANO. To buy tickets (code HOMERUN), visit <https://pa.exchange/marketplace/2c6525a8-1d6d-11f1-a67c-3b9a141d9fe/storefront/2c65271a-1d6d-11f1-a688-c57959ab37bd?emci=6731ac01-e938-f111-8ef2-000d3a14b640&emdi=7531ac01-e938-f111-8ef2-000d3a14b640&ceid=13211245>.

“Steep & Paint”

May 15 & 22, 2-5pm, Lan Su Chinese Garden (239 NW Everett St, Portland). Attend the “Steep & Paint” series at Lan Su. In partnership with Oregon Botanical Artists (OBA), the immersive afternoon experience invites guests to slow down, look closely, and connect with plants through tea, conversation, and hands-on art-making. Each session weaves together horticulture, tea culture, and botanical art. All materials are included. For info, or to purchase tickets (required), call (503) 228-8131 or visit <www.lansugarden.org>.

Heart Strings Mandarin Trio

May 16, 4-4:45pm, North Portland Library (512 N Killingsworth St, Portland). Attend a performance by the Heart Strings Mandarin Trio as part of AANHPI Heritage Month. For info, call (503) 988-5123 or visit <events.multcolib.org>.

“I Am An American Live:

Stories of Exclusion and Belonging”

May 16, 6pm (Happy Hour), 6:30pm (auditorium opens), 7-9:30pm, Patricia Reser Center for the Arts (12625 SW Crescent St, Beaverton, Ore.). Join The Immigrant Story for “I Am An American Live.” The event, titled “Stories of Exclusion and

Continued on page 17

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Obukan Judo Dojo crosses the century mark

The Obukan Judo Dojo, one of the oldest continuously operating judo schools in the United States, is celebrating its 100th year. Founded by members of Portland's Japanese community in 1926, the dojo has been a place to practice judo while fostering discipline, respect, and connection.

"Obukan Judo: A 100-Year Portland Legacy," an exhibit currently on view at the Oregon Historical Society Museum in downtown Portland, explores Obukan's deep roots in Portland's Japanese American community and its lasting impact on the city's cultural life.

The display honors the generations of students and instructors who sustained the dojo for a century. With photographs, trophies, memorabilia, uniforms, and more, the community's resilience and the enduring power of sport to build character and connection shines through.

Obukan Judo was founded at a time when Japanese immigrants faced widespread difficulties,



including discrimination and limited opportunities, so the dojo was more than a martial arts school. It grew into a community gathering place where friendship, mutual respect, and perseverance thrived.

It was a place where people could train, build friendships, and pass on cultural traditions.

Judo is a Japanese martial art and Olympic sport that incorporates throwing and pinning maneuvers. Judo was founded in

1882 by Jigoro Kano Shihan at the Kodokan Judo Institute in Tokyo, Japan. (Shihan is an honorific meaning "master teacher.") Developed from earlier martial arts traditions, judo emphasizes balance, technique, and strategy rather than strength alone.

Kano Shihan believed judo was more than a sport. Its guiding principles — Mutual Welfare and Benefit (Jita Kyoei) and Maximum Efficiency (Seiryoku



DOJO MILESTONE. "Obukan Judo: A 100-Year Portland Legacy," an exhibit at the Oregon Historical Society Museum in downtown Portland, is on view through August 30, 2026. The display explores Obukan's deep roots in Portland's Japanese American community. (Photos/Evan Kierstead, courtesy of Oregon Historical Society Museum)

Zenyo) — encourage cooperation, discipline, and personal growth.

Obukan Judo Dojo's connection to judo's founder is especially significant, as he visited the Portland dojo twice in the 1930s. Obukan was also one of the last dojos he personally named before he passed away in 1938.

The Obukan Judo Dojo is located in northeast Portland. To learn more, call (503) 208-3035 or

visit <www.obukanjudo.org>.

"Obukan Judo: A 100-Year Portland Legacy" is on view at the Oregon Historical Society Museum, located at 1200 S.W. Park Avenue in Portland, through August 30, 2026. Admission to the museum is free for Multnomah County residents.

For more information, please call (503) 222-1741 or visit <www.ohs.org>.

Efforts to require Asian American history in schools after anti-Asian hate starting to pay off

By Terry Tang
The Associated Press

When high school students in the West Hartford Public Schools district study World War II this year, they will learn about more than just the typical hallmarks like Japanese American detention camps. They will also hear about Sadao Munemori, a soldier who died protecting comrades from a grenade. The 22-year-old posthumously became the first Japanese American awarded the Medal of Honor.

Lessons like this that delve beyond the expected have left teachers humbled, said Jessica Blitzer, the district's social studies department supervisor who helped design curriculum for secondary grade levels.

"It's one of those moments where you think 'How have we not been doing that?' These are moments where you realize this is really important, particularly given the population that we have in West Hartford, which is incredibly diverse in many ways," Blitzer said.

Three years after Connecticut became the third state to require Asian American and Pacific Islander history in K-12 education, a developed curriculum is being put into motion. For now, instruction is

Asian surnames have been the fastest-growing in the U.S., according to Census Bureau report

By Mike Schneider
The Associated Press

ORLANDO, Fla. — The most popular last names in the U.S. might be unchanged from the previous decade, but Asian surnames were the fastest-growing at the start of this decade, according to the U.S. Census Bureau.

Smith, Johnson, Williams, Brown, and Jones remained the top five last names in the United States in 2020, as they were in 2010, according to a tally from the last U.S. head count. Most of the fastest-growing last names from 2010 to 2020 were Asian, according to the Census Bureau.

The top three of those were Zhang, Liu, and Wang. In the 21st century, Asians have been the fastest-growing of the country's largest racial or ethnic groups, and they now make up 7% of the U.S. population.

While Asian growth will continue to

being rolled out in every grade except fourth and fifth. Most of the district's 9,300 students will have lessons integrated year-round. It will not be "the heritage month approach," Blitzer said.

Since pandemic-fueled anti-Asian hate surged in 2020, Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander advocates have mobilized to make AAPI history mandatory learning through legislation or state education boards. Today, most AAPI adults want educators to teach history through the lens of racism, slavery, and segregation, according to a 2024 survey. There have been some successes, with around a dozen states passing statutes requiring curriculum.

Beyond well-known events, classes are diving into topics like stereotypes of South Asians and Vietnamese refugees. But as efforts arise, so has disagreement among Asian Americans.

More progressive voices question the fairness and optics of seeking approval from lawmakers who have rejected history focused on other historically marginalized groups, such as expanded Black history curriculum that some critics more recently maligned as woke ideology or likened to critical race theory.

outpace overall U.S. growth, the immigration crackdown during the second Trump administration could slow down future expansion of that population in the United States, said Paul Ong, a public affairs professor at the University of California, Los Angeles.

"Much of the growth of the Asian population has been driven by immigrants and their children," Ong said. "Consequently, when Asians crack the top surname rank will be pushed further into the future."

Rounding out the top 10 most common last names in 2020 were Garcia, Miller, Rodriguez, Davis, and Martinez. The only change from 2010 was Rodriguez, which jumped ahead of Davis for the No. 8 spot.

There were 7.8 million unique last names, according to the Census Bureau.

The Census Bureau has tallied counts of the most common last names in each once-a-decade head count since 1990.

How teaching AAPI history finally came to the forefront

AAPI organizations devastated by reports of thousands of verbal and physical attacks, including the 2021 Atlanta spa shootings that left six Asian women dead, ramped up lobbying for more inclusive education. The hope was teaching about AAPI contributions would foster understanding. In July 2021, Illinois became the first state to mandate Asian American history. In 2022, New Jersey and Connecticut followed.

An expanded look at history includes reading accounts of new immigrants in San Francisco and Wong Kim Ark's Supreme Court fight for birthright citizenship. It also includes studying living figures like Chinese American architect Maya Lin.

Jason Oliver Chang, director of the University of Connecticut Asian and Asian American Studies Institute, helped develop legislation and train teachers. He remembers how lawmakers were moved by student testimonials.

"They were talking about their experiences sort of living two lives — one at school, one at home — feeling invisible and not feeling seen by their peers or respected by their peers," Chang said. "Any time there's a mention of someone that looks like them in a school curriculum, it's that they're the bad guys."

President Donald Trump has intensified scrutiny of how schools address race, threatening to withhold federal funds over diversity initiatives. The guidance has left some educators uncertain, despite some anti-DEI measures being blocked or put on hold by federal judges. Concerned teachers should stick to the framework and consult with colleagues, advises Kate Dias, president of Connecticut's largest teachers' union.

"Almost every person who teaches content of this nature does not do it in a way to say, 'Here's all the injustices of the world,'" Dias said. "The call to action is 'You need to now look at this information and you need to decide what it means.'"

Working with critics of race-conscious curriculum

Requiring AAPI history in schools has garnered bipartisan support. But in some conservative states, divisions have arisen over lawmakers who don't see systemic

racism and social justice as essential to history.

When Florida adopted AAPI history legislation in 2023, critics saw it as hypocritical given the state denied Advanced Placement African American studies for being "critical race theory."

In Arizona, failed legislation mandating AAPI and Native Hawaiian history lessons was initially endorsed by some past presidents of the Japanese American Citizens League. The Arizona chapter came out against it. Current JAACL leaders also withheld their support.

Chapter leaders asserted the bill's co-sponsor, state Republican senator John Kavanagh, and other supporters were only interested in rubber-stamping a sanitized history and ignoring African American and LGBTQ+ history.

Kavanagh equates talk of systemic racism with indoctrination. He previously supported barring college groups based on racial or ethnic identity and high school ethnic studies classes that seemed politicized.

He says teaching the history must be done in a "neutral, thorough manner."

"I certainly have no problem teaching the history of Blacks or Hispanics or anybody," Kavanagh said. "I don't think there should be a course in a high school teaching students that this country is systemically racist when it's not."

The Arizona chapter of Make Us Visible, a national organization trying to establish AAPI history in every state, has faced criticism for not calling out right-leaning legislators. Astria Wong, chapter director, dismissed it.

"It's really a good thing that even a conservative senator will support it. That means there is some bones in it," Wong said. "It should be bipartisan anyway."

Amber Reed, co-executive director of AAPI New Jersey, finds it upsetting.

"What teacher wants to suddenly start teaching Asian American history while sort of being discouraged from teaching African American history or Latinx history, the history of all of our communities," Reed said.

A "deeper, richer" look at American history

Before next summer, West Hartford Public Schools will assess how to improve curricula.

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Heritage Month calendar

Continued from page 14

Belonging,” features four storytellers from Vietnam, China, the Philippines, and Burma sharing their experiences of what it means to belong in America — even while at times being excluded — and what has inspired them to become agents of change. The event is part of programming by the Oregon Rises Above Hate coalition in honor of AANHPI Heritage Month. For info, or to reserve tickets (highly suggested), call (971) 501-7722 or visit <www.thereser.org>.

The Orchid Trio

May 16 & 23; May 16, 2-3pm, Multnomah County Central Library (801 SW 10th Ave, Portland); May 23, 2-3pm, Woodstock Library (6008 SE 49th Ave, Portland). Attend a free concert by The Orchid Trio in celebration of AANHPI Heritage Month. The Orchid Trio — violinist Siying Ge, violist Deborah Shuster, and cellist Quinn Liu — will perform music originating from Asia. For info, call (503) 988-5123 or visit <events.multcolib.org>.

AANHPI Heritage Month Celebration in Lake Oswego

May 17, noon-3pm, Millennium Plaza Park (200 1st St, Lake Oswego, Ore.). Attend the Lake Oswego AANHPI Heritage Month Celebration. The afternoon features performances and a marketplace featuring AANHPI-owned businesses, artisans, food vendors, and local nonprofits. The main program, which runs from 1:00pm to 3:00pm, includes Tahitian rhythms and storytelling, dragon and lion dances, and more. For info, visit <www.ci.oswego.or.us/parksrec/community-events>.

Origami Spring Flowers for tweens & teens

May 17, 2-3:30pm, Sellwood-Moreland Library (7860 SE 13th Ave, Portland). Tweens and teens are invited to learn how to make origami flowers with origami artist Yuki Martin. Participants transform ordinary pieces of paper into three-dimensional forms — paper tulips, trilliums, cherry blossoms, and more. For info, call (503) 988-5123 or visit <events.multcolib.org>.

Paradise of Samoa Dance Troupe

May 17, 3-4pm, Multnomah County Central Library (801 SW 10th Ave, Portland). Watch a performance by the Paradise of Samoa Dance Troupe featuring colorful and authentic music and dance from the islands of Hawai'i, Samoa, Tahiti, New Zealand, Tonga, and Fiji. The event includes cultural history narrated between dances. For info, call (503) 988-5123 or visit <events.multcolib.org>.

“Voices of the World – IRCO Gala 2026”

May 21, 5:30pm (reception), 6:30pm (program), Portland Art Museum, Kridel Grand Ballroom (1219 SW Park Ave, Portland). Attend “Voices of the World — IRCO Gala 2026,” an event highlighting five decades of the Immigrant and Refugee Community Organization (IRCO) empowering refugee and immigrant communities in Portland and beyond. The event features cultural performances, inspiring stories, dinner, and more. Contributions raised during the celebration directly benefit families and clients of IRCO. To reserve a space, call (503) 234-1541 or visit <www.irc.org>.

Asian Night Market

May 22, 5-10pm, Eugene Downtown Farmers Market Pavilion & Plaza (8th St & Oak St, Eugene, Ore.). Enjoy culture and community at the 2026 Asian Night Market in Eugene. Hosted by the Asian American Council of Oregon, the evening features live cultural performances, Asian cuisine, and a

U.S. Postal Service celebrates martial arts icon Bruce Lee with a forever stamp

Continued from page 10

art during this time, which he ultimately named Jeet Kune Do, which roughly translates as “the way of the intercepting fist.” He used a philosophical foundation instead of rigid traditional martial arts to create a free-flowing approach. At its core were the ideas of simplicity, directness, and personal freedom. “When there is freedom from mechanical conditioning, there is simplicity,” he wrote in his posthumously published book *Tao of Jeet Kune Do*.

Several years passed before Lee starred in a Hollywood-Hong Kong movie co-production. Released in 1972, *Enter the Dragon* became a worldwide phenomenon. It was eventually added to the National Film Registry, which honors “culturally, historically, or aesthetically” significant motion pictures.

Sadly, Lee passed away before *Enter the Dragon* was released to American audiences and became a global success. On July 20, 1973, a month before the film's premiere, Bruce fell into a coma while asleep. He died at age 32 of cerebral edema.

In the following decades, Bruce Lee's legend grew. In 1999, he was included in *TIME* magazine's list of the Top 100 Most Important People of the Century. In 2012, the U.S. House of Representatives paid tribute to him with an official statement calling Lee “a true catalyst for social change and civil rights” and “a cultural and American icon.” The statement concluded that Lee “remains a beacon of hope and opportunity for future generations in America.”

The Bruce Lee USPS stamp is available in panes of 20. It's a Forever stamp, so it will always be equal in value to the current one-ounce first-class mail price.

To learn more about Bruce Lee, readers are encouraged to view “Be Water, My Friend: The Teachings of Bruce Lee,” an interactive exhibit currently on view at the Wing Luke Museum of the Asian Pacific American Experience, located at 719 S. King Street in Seattle. The display



HERITAGE MONTH EVENTS. “Pacific Islanders: Navigators of the Sea,” an exhibit about the art, dance, music, and settlement of people in the Pacific Islands, is on view through July 31 at the World Beat Gallery in Salem. (Photo courtesy of the World Beat Gallery)

marketplace of local craft vendors. For info, e-mail <info@asiancouncil.org> or visit <www.asiancouncil.org/asian-night-market-2026>.

Pasifika & Asian American Community Science Night

May 22, 6-9pm, Oregon Museum of Science & Industry (1945 SE Water Ave, Portland). Join community members and the Oregon Museum of Science & Industry for the fourth annual Pasifika & Asian American Community Science Night. The event welcomes visitors of all ages for an evening of museum exploring, science demonstrations, vendor tables, and cultural entertainment. For info, or to purchase tickets, call (503) 797-4000 or visit <www.oms.edu>.

APIC SPS AANHPI Heritage Month Celebration

May 23, 11am-4pm, South Puget Sound Community College, Lacey Campus, Building #1 (4220 6th Ave SE, Lacey, Wash.). Enjoy performances, food vendors, activities, and more at a family-friendly AANHPI Heritage Month Celebration presented by the Asian Pacific Islanders Coalition of South Puget Sound (APIC SPS). The event, held in partnership with the City of Olympia and area community organizations, highlights AANHPI communities, cultures, traditions, and experiences. For info, call (323) 609-5757, e-mail <apic.southpugetsound@gmail.com>, or visit <www.apicsouthpugetsound.org>.

AANHPI Food Fest

May 23, noon-3pm, Director Park (815 SW Park Ave, Portland). Taste vibrant AANHPI cuisine and meet the chefs behind some of our area's beloved eateries at AANHPI Food Fest, an event presented by API Forward, the Filipino American Northwest Association, and FilAmFest Portland. For more info, call (971) 221-7070 or visit <www.filamfestpdx.com>.

Washington County AANHPI Educational Fair

May 27, 10am-2pm, Public Services Building (155 N First Ave, Hillsboro, Ore.). Join Washington County employees celebrate AANHPI Heritage Month at their second annual Educational Fair. The event, which is free and open to the public, features information booths, a chance to win prizes, and more.



GONE TOO SOON. The Bruce Lee stamp created by the U.S. Postal Service (USPS) has a yellow calligraphic brushstroke on a white background, which, according to USPS, is a reference to Lee's iconic yellow tracksuit in the film *The Game of Death*, which was released years after his death. Pictured is a promotional poster for *The Game of Death*.

invites viewers to step into the mind, body, and spirit of Bruce Lee to see how his unquenchable pursuit of knowledge informed his philosophy and life.

For more information about “Be Water, My Friend,” or to purchase tickets, call (206) 623-5124 or visit <www.wingluke.org>.

For more info, call (971) 221-7070 or visit <www.filamfestpdx.com>.

Hula for the Family

May 30, 10:30-11:30am, Kenton Library (8226 N Denver Ave, Portland). Discover the art of hula at Hula for the Family, a hands-on, all-ages cultural adventure. Participants learn about authentic Hawaiian culture through language, song, and dance. No experience is required; just bring an open heart and a willingness to have fun. For info, call (503) 988-5123 or visit <events.multcolib.org>.

The Orchid Trio: Journey to China

May 30, 2-3pm, Multnomah County Central Library (801 SW 10th Ave, Portland). Attend Journey to China, a free concert highlighting traditional music performed by The Orchid Trio in celebration of AANHPI Heritage Month. The Orchid Trio features violinist Siying Ge, violist Deborah Shuster, and cellist Quinn Liu. For info, call (503) 988-5123 or visit <events.multcolib.org>.

“Islands to Asia — A Runway of Heritage”

May 30, 6-9pm, Shawn Gardner Dancing (8900 SW Commercial St, Tigard, Ore.). Attend “Islands to Asia — A Runway of Heritage,” an AANHPI fashion show celebrating the stories, styles, and roots that connect us. For more info, call (971) 221-7070 or visit <www.filamfestpdx.com>.

Pagdiriwang Philippine Festival

June 6-7, 11am-7pm, Seattle Center, Armory Food & Event Hall (305 Harrison St, Seattle). Attend the Pagdiriwang Philippine Festival, a celebration of Filipino culture, history, and heritage presented by Seattle Center Festal. The free event observes Philippine independence from colonial rule and the strength of Filipino identity and imagination through art exhibits, performances, and more. For info, call (206) 684-7200, or visit <www.seattlecenter.com> or <www.festalpagdiriwang.com>.



TEACHING TOLERANCE. A sign posted outside kindergarten teacher Christin Labriola's classroom shows the diverse population of her students at Webster Hill Elementary School in West Hartford, Connecticut. Three years after Connecticut became the third state to require Asian American and Pacific Islander history in K-12 education, a developed curriculum is being put into motion. In the bottom photo, teacher Labriola reads the book *Dumpling Soup* by Jama Kim Rattigan to students at Webster Hill Elementary School. (AP Photos/Jessica Hill)

Efforts to require Asian American history in schools after anti-Asian hate starting to pay off

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The goal is not to teach just “doom and gloom” to the student body — of which white children make up about 55%, Hispanics 21%, and Asians and Black students more than 10% each — but a balanced look at history, said assistant superintendent Anne McKernan.

“There's resistance, there's perseverance, there's greatness,” McKernan said. “As I look through the changes in elementary and the changes in secondary, it's a richer look.”

Elementary grades are using books to learn culture, reading comprehension, and vocabulary, said Erika Hanusch, district literacy and social studies curriculum specialist. For example, kindergartners are reading the picture book *Dumpling Soup* by Jama Kim Rattigan. Centered around a family in Hawai'i, the characters come from different Asian backgrounds.

“It's really more so embedded through story and lens,” Hanusch said. “And it's giving teachers and students that natural opportunity to learn a little bit more about the where and the who and the traditions that come from those stories.”

Tang reported from Phoenix.