

Maritime Academy Charter School

Celebrates



May 1 – May 31

Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month is a period for the duration of month of May for recognizing the contributions and influence of Asian Americans and Pacific Islander Americans to the history, culture, and achievements of the United States.

Celebrate! Where Asia Meets America

Asia at the Smithsonian

The Smithsonian celebrates the reopening of the [Freer Gallery of Art and the Arthur M. Sackler Gallery](#) after renovations. Together they have long been known for preserving and sharing the treasures of Asia, making inspiring connections between Asia, America, and the world. There is a wealth of digital resources related to Asia and the Asian American experience across the Smithsonian. The entire Freer|Sackler collection is available via [Open F|S](#) along with other resources tracing the arts, history, cultures, and natural history of the Asian continent.

<https://www.si.edu/feature/celebrate-asia>

GOVERNMENT



FIRST ASIAN AMERICAN US VICE PRESIDENT

Kamala Devi Harris born October 20, 1964 is an American politician and attorney who is the **vice president of the United States**. Harris served as a **United States senator** from **California** from 2017 to 2021, and as **attorney general of California** from 2011 to 2017.

MARITIME



Mr. Sun Yang

Mr. Sun Yang is a Taiwanese-American immigrant who grew up in Jersey and graduated from SUNY Maritime College in 2011 with a Bachelor's degree in Marine Transportation. Upon graduation, his first job was as an AB deck hand for a tug and barge company. After earning his PIC, he was promoted to Tankerman and eventually Second Mate on ATB's. It was at this point when Sun decided to transition to deep sea and join the International Organization of Masters, Mates, & Pilots where he sailed as Third and Second Mate on a variety of vessels including Training Ship, Research Ship, Ro/Ro, and containership. After a short stint sailing Foreign Flag on a cruise ship, he was presented an opportunity as a Port Captain for a containership company where he is still currently employed. Sun is honored to be a part of one of the only organizations that promotes diversity and the advancement of minorities in an industry where it is so uncommon. He is a board member of Organization for Black Maritime Graduates.



Asians In the Salmon Canning Industry



A12.24.389n. Chinese unloading stores from wagon, probably rice bundles in matting that are destined for adjacent downeaster, a salmon packet headed for Alaska: San Francisco, CA, April 12, 1906. Source: John Procter collection. Credit: San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park. This material may be protected by copyright.

In 1870, the first gang of Chinese salmon cannery hands helped pack the season's catch at the Hume brother's cannery on the Columbia River. This was the beginning of the almost exclusive use of Asian immigrant workers throughout the West Coast salmon industry. Beginning with the Chinese, then the Japanese, and finally the Filipinos, the work of cleaning, butchering, filling, and cooking [in the salmon canneries](#) was done by gangs of Asian immigrants. As we celebrate Asian Pacific American Heritage Month in May, we do well to recall the contributions of these generations of hard-working immigrants to the salmon packing industry. An excellent treatment of this story can be found in [Organizing Asian American Labor: The Pacific Coast Canned-Salmon Industry](#), by Chris Friday, Temple University Press, Philadelphia, 1994. This book is available at the park library, 415-561-7030.

MILITARY



Major Kurt Chew-Een Lee

Major Kurt Chew-Een Lee, the son of Chinese immigrants, helped write American history. In 1944, he joined the Marine Corps at age 18 and expected to deploy to the Pacific Theater after boot camp but was instead assigned to a stateside Japanese language school. Disappointed that he did not serve in combat, he pursued a military career after World War II and earned his place in history as one of the first Asian-Americans to serve as a regular officer in the Marine Corps.

“People claim I wore a big chip on my shoulder, sure, this chip is my learning tool for expelling ignorance,” said Lee who was faced with the discrimination that came with being a “first.” Initially, his men doubted his loyalty to the United States, but that was quickly disproven with Lee’s acts of gallantry during the battle of Inchon and throughout the Korean War.

While leading a platoon, his unit was attacked at Inchon by Chinese forces. At the time, a lieutenant, Lee ordered his platoon to establish a defensive line, while he advanced alone to provoke the enemy to open fire and reveal their positions. It worked. As he drew fire from nearby Chinese forces, he said in Mandarin, “Don’t shoot! I’m Chinese!” The attack continued; his American accent had given him away. Lee’s extraordinary heroism earned him the Navy Cross. Lee, who retired from the Marine Corps in 1968, died March 3, 2014, at age 88.

SCIENCE

Asian Americans have made many notable contributions to Science and Technology.

Chien-Shiung Wu was known to many scientists as the "First Lady of Physics" and played a pivotal role in experimentally demonstrating the violation of the law of conservation of parity in the field of particle physics.



TECHNOLOGY



Fazlur Rahman Kan

Fazlur Rahman Khan, also known as named as "The Father of tubular designs for high-rises", was highlighted by President Barack Obama in a 2009 speech in Cairo, Egypt, and has been called "Einstein of Structural engineering.'

SCIENCE



Min Chueh Chang was a Chinese-American reproductive biologist. He was the co-inventor of the combined oral contraceptive pill and contributed significantly to the development of in vitro fertilisation at the Worcester Foundation for Experimental Biology

Physicist



Steven Chu in 2011

Steven Chu (born February 28, 1948)^[4] is an American [physicist](#) born in [St. Louis, Missouri](#), with Chinese ancestry. He is a Nobel laureate, and the 12th [United States Secretary of Energy](#). He is currently the [William R. Kenan, Jr.](#), Professor of [Physics](#) and Professor of Molecular and Cellular Physiology at [Stanford University](#). He is known for his research at the [University of California, Berkeley](#) and his research at [Bell Laboratories](#) and [Stanford University](#) regarding the [cooling and trapping of atoms with laser light](#), for which he shared the 1997 [Nobel Prize in Physics](#) with [Claude Cohen-Tannoudji](#) and [William Daniel Phillips](#).

SCIENCE



David T. Wong is a Hong Kong-born American neuroscientist. He is a former researcher with [Eli Lilly and Company](#) and an adjunct professor at the [Indiana University](#) School of Medicine. Wong is known for the discovery of the [antidepressant](#) drug [fluoxetine](#), more commonly known by its trade name Prozac.^{[1][2][3]} Wong was born in Hong Kong, and began his undergraduate studies in chemistry at [National Taiwan University](#). He came to [Seattle Pacific College](#) in 1957, and graduated in 1961. He then went on to graduate studies at [Oregon State University](#), where he earned a master's degree in 1964 and later at [University of Oregon](#) to receive his doctorate in 1966. After doing his postdoctoral research at the [University of Pennsylvania](#), he joined Eli Lilly in 1968. He was given the [Prince Mahidol Award](#) in Medicine in 2011.

EDUCATION



Ms. Cruz is a high school science teacher at Maritime Academy Charter School. She was born and raised in the Philippines and has been in the United States for ten years. Although, she may not has not been at Maritime for a long time; she is not new to the field of education. She is a passionate educator who is always willing to go above and beyond to help every student. Apart from teaching, she enjoys reading, watching movies, dancing, multitasking and living independently! She can be very convincing and that skill has helps her in motivating students to do well not only academically but also emotionally.

Education



Miss Linh Luu is an Elementary Special Education teacher at Maritime Academy Charter School. She was born in Northeast Philadelphia and raised in Upper Bucks County, Pennsylvania. She is a Chinese-Vietnamese American with both of her parents from Vietnam. She has an undergraduate degree in Early Childhood Education and a Master's degree in Special Education from Temple University. Her passion for teaching is rooted in making a change and bringing cultural awareness into the classroom. She currently teaches 4th/5th grade reading and math in a resource room. Besides teaching, she enjoys spending time with her friends and family. She would love to travel more often and adopt a dog one day. She had fallen in love with the city and now resides in University City.

Education

Michele Christie is an elementary/middle school Computer Literacy teacher at Maritime Academy Charter School for about 4 years. She was born in Flushing, NY and raised in Hamilton Square, NJ. Both of her parents are from the Philippines. She has an undergraduate degree in Accounting with a minor in French and a Master's degree in Business Administration from *Rider University* in Lawrenceville, NJ. She has worked as an accountant for companies such as KPMG and Bear Stearns Inc. for several years before switching careers to earn a teaching certificate in BCIT (Business Computers Information Technology) from *Delaware Valley University* in Doylestown, PA. Her passion is to teach her students various computer activities that will benefit them in the real world. She resides with her husband, 3 children, and dog in Doylestown, PA. She loves to spend time with her family and travel when possible.



Mrs. Christie
Computer Literacy
Teacher

Education



Ms. Fanega works as the Assistant to the Principal at Maritime Academy Charter School. She was born and raised in Northeast Philadelphia, and is of Filipino descent. Ms. Fanega attended Temple University and graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Biological Anthropology. While Ms. Fanega has worked at Maritime Academy for the past four years, she also possesses an Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) certification. When she is not working, this Filipina-American loves to play tennis, travel, and enjoy time with family and friends.

SPORTS



Duke Kahanamoku came to be known as the father of international surfing, but the Hawaiian native made his first splash as a swimmer at the 1912 Olympics in Stockholm, Sweden. Born in Honolulu in 1890, Kahanamoku struck gold by setting a world record in the 100-meter free-style and earned a silver medal in the 200-meter relay. He won two more golds at the 1920 Antwerp Olympics, a silver at the 1924 Paris Olympics, and a bronze at the 1932 Los Angeles Olympics. Kahanamoku's swimming and surfing talents caught the attention of Hollywood, and over the course of nine years, he appeared in nearly 30 movies. Kahanamoku went on to serve as sheriff for the City and County of Honolulu for 26 years. When the legendary swimmer and surfer died at the age of 77, he was remembered for his athletic talent and sportsmanship.

CONTEMPORARY POET



Jennifer Chang was born in [New Jersey](#). She earned a BA from the University of Chicago in 1998, and an MFA from University of Virginia in 2002, where she returned to pursue a PhD and received her degree in 2017. Her poems have been published in *American Poetry Review*, *Best American Poetry 2012*, *The Nation*, *The New Yorker*, *Poetry*, and *A Public Space*. Chang's debut collection of poetry, *The History of Anonymity*, was published in 2008 by the [University of Georgia Press](#). This collection of lyrical poems was an inaugural selection for the *VQR's* (*Virginia Quarterly Review*) Poetry Series and a finalist for the Shenandoah/Glasgow Prize for Emerging Writers. Her second book, *Some Say The Lark*, was published by [Alice James Books](#) in 2017. It was longlisted for the 2018 PEN Open Book Award and won the 2018 William Carlos Williams Award. She lives with her family in [Washington, D.C.](#), where she is an Assistant Professor of English and Creative Writing at [George Washington University](#).