

# Pathfinder

MAY 2024



## ASIAN AMERICAN & PACIFIC ISLANDER HERITAGE MONTH

May is a month set apart to recognize and celebrate the important role Asian Americans, native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders play in United States history. The effort to officially recognize Asian American and Pacific Islander contributions started in the late 1970's, and became a permanent month-long celebration in 1992. Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders have contributed significantly in many aspects of United States culture and society, including science and medicine, literature and art, sports, government and politics, activism and law, and the list goes on. This year, the Asian-Pacific Islander Club was a new club on Golden West campus. Club members come from a variety of countries and cultures, and are very welcoming to new members. They encourage you to check out their club next year and learn more about their fun heritage.



## GRADUATION TRADITIONS FROM AROUND THE WORLD



**Sweden:** Graduates wear studentmossa (a sailor hat) embroidered with their name. Throughout the day, their hats are covered with notes and well-wishes.

**Italy:** Students must answer questions in detail before an academic board and in front of guests. They do not know what the questions will be ahead of time. After the ceremony, graduates are “trashed” by family and friends who throw eggs, glitter, flour, and even ketchup on them!

**China:** Graduates dress up to lighten the serious mood. Many dress as pirates, cartoon characters, or even wear wedding dresses. It's the students' way of celebrating whimsically before entering the workforce.

**Japan:** Singing plays a large role in graduation ceremonies. The national anthem, city song, and school song are sung. The underclassmen also sing to the graduates.

**Thailand:** Many students book professional photographers for their ceremony and even have cardboard cutouts of themselves printed. Degrees are handed out to graduates by members of the royal family.

**Argentina:** Similar to Italy, family and friends throw food at graduates, including tomato sauce, egg, and flour! The tradition is for fun and to make it obvious that the person is a graduate. Some say the tradition of “egging” is a symbol of future endeavors and new life.

## LEARNING CULTURE THROUGH MUSIC

Golden West choir students learn about the culture and heritage of many countries through music. This year they sang in many languages with songs representing a variety of regions and cultures, including: Sephardic Ladinos (Jews of Spain and Portugal), Moorish Andalusians (Spain), French Canadians, Egypt and Jordan, Lebanon Italy, Sufi Muslims, India (Kumaoni Region), Afghanistan, and Pakistan.



Choir members in San Francisco during the 2024 choir tour (top)  
Golden West Blazer Choir (bottom)



## SENIOR SPOTLIGHT

The class of 2024 shared insight about their heritage, how they celebrate their heritage, and what they've learned about culture and heritage during their years at Golden West.

### **Why is your heritage important to you?**

- It defines and resembles me. It has opened many doors in my life and has allowed me to accomplish many goals that as first generation has made my family proud. (Diana Gonzalez)
- It represents who I am and where I came from. My heritage is part of my identity. (Valerie Jurado Sanchez)

### **Is there a class, club, or project that helped you learn more about your heritage or the culture and heritage of others?**

- In my junior year, I did many projects about Latin culture. It was wonderful to feel connected with my culture and others similar to it. There would be dances, parties, laughter, and more whenever me and my class got onto the topic of our cultures. (Estela Marie Navarro)
- The class that helped me learn more would be my Spanish classes with Mr. Pulido. He made the class super fun and serious; he taught a lot of good things going on from heritage to comparing how we live now compared to how we lived decades ago. (Jaylnn Gonzalez)
- Ethnic Studies not only taught me more about my own cultures but also other cultures of different ethnicities and minorities. In that class we learned about evolution and how people of different ethnicities and races got to where they are today and the hardships they had to face. (Erika Jia Hui Li)

### **How do you and your family recognize and celebrate your heritage?**

- We cook Irish meals, (corned beef and cabbage, potatoes etc.). We have our family crest displayed in our home and we talk about our family. (Reagan O'Hara)
- I go to lowrider car shows with my 1962 Chevy Impala to celebrate my culture and have a good time. We also throw BBQ 's for stuff like Cinco de Mayo and El Día de los Muertos. (Diego Angel Salinas)