

DIVERSITY CAFE

THIS MONTH'S SPECIALS

Filipino American
Heritage Month

Café News

- Due to scheduling conflicts, the Filipino American Public Works Employee Association will not be holding its annual cultural event this year. We will look forward to a wonderful event from them in 2013.
- The DPW Iranian American Employees' Committee has joined the growing list of the Department's formal employee affinity groups. The group met recently with Diversity Manager Flora Wieggers to discuss and adopt the guidelines set for all employee affinity groups. The group will be meeting regularly to prepare for next year's Iranian New Year celebration.
- The Latino Heritage committee is preparing to celebrate the Hispanic Heritage month on October 23, in Conference Rooms A-C, from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. The theme is "Muchos Antecedentes, Muchas Historias, Un Espirito Latino," which translates to "Many Backgrounds, Many Stories, One Latino Spirit." Food will be catered, and there will also be displays showing the beauty and traditions that Latin countries have to offer.

Test Your Knowledge: True or False!

1. There are more than 7,100 Islands in the Philippines. (T) (F)
2. Filipino Americans are the largest subgroup among Asian Americans. (T) (F)
3. There are now about 4 million Filipino Americans in the United States. (T) (F)

(Answers below)

October Café Special

October is **Filipino American History Month**, also known as **Filipino American Heritage Month**. The observation was established in 1988 by the Filipino American National Historical Society and is widely celebrated in California and Hawaii, where a large number of Filipino Americans reside.

The first Filipinos to set foot in North America arrived in Morro Bay, California. The first permanent Filipino settlement in North America was established in 1763 in Saint Malo, Louisiana. Since then, Filipino Americans have made substantial contributions to American society in the arts, sciences, music, and literature.

More than 250,000 brave and courageous Filipinos fought under the United States flag during World War II to protect and defend this country. At Public Works, we are proud of our Filipino employees and honor their heritage and culture every year.

October is also **National Disability Employment Awareness Month**, a national campaign that raises awareness about disability employment issues and celebrates the many and varied contributions of America's workers with disabilities. This year's theme is "A Strong Workforce is an Inclusive Workforce: What Can YOU Do?" Employers, schools, and organizations of all sizes and in all communities are encouraged to participate with a variety of activities to help raise awareness and foster a more inclusive America, one where every person is recognized for his or her abilities.



Diversity Calendar

October 10, 2012 – Watch "Little Manila: Filipinos in Californian's Heartland" a local documentary on public television, KVII, at 7 p.m. http://www.kvie.org/programs/kvie/viewfinder/little_manila/default.htm.

Café Quote of the Month

"We must be united in the effort to make an America in which our people can find happiness. It is a great wrong that anyone in America, whether he be brown or white, should be illiterate or hungry or miserable."

- Excerpt from "America Is in the Heart," Written by Carlos Bulosan, English language Filipino novelist and poet.

By Flora Wieggers, Public Works Diversity Manager (626) 458-5193

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