

DIVERSITY CAFE

THIS MONTH'S SPECIALS

*Asian-Pacific American
and Jewish Heritage Month*

May Café Special

May is Asian-Pacific American Heritage Month and celebrates Asians and Pacific Islanders in the United States. The theme this year is "Striving for Excellence In Leadership, Diversity and Inclusion."

Asian-Pacific encompasses all of the Asian continent and the Pacific islands of Melanesia (New Guinea, New Caledonia, Vanuatu, Fiji, and the Solomon Islands), Micronesia (Marianas, Guam, Wake Island, Palau, Marshall Islands, Kiribati, Nauru, and the Federated States of Micronesia), and Polynesia (New Zealand, Hawaiian Islands, Rotuma, Midway Islands, Samoa, American Samoa, Tonga, Tuvalu, Cook Islands, French Polynesia, and Easter Island).

The month of May was chosen for the celebration as it commemorates the immigration of the first Japanese to the United States on May 7, 1843, and marks the anniversary of the completion of the transcontinental railroad on May 10, 1869. The majority of the workers who laid the railroad tracks were Chinese immigrants.

May is also Jewish-American Heritage Month. In 1654, 23 Jewish immigrants became the first to settle in North America when they arrived on the shores of New Amsterdam, now known as New York City. In 2006, President George W. Bush proclaimed that May would be Jewish-American Heritage Month and provide an opportunity to celebrate the history, culture, and faith of Jewish-Americans and their contributions to our Nation.

Café Quote of the Month

"We all live with the objective of being happy; our lives are all different and yet the same."

-- Anne Frank

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

Café News

- Public Works' African American Engineers and Professional Employees Association (**AAEPEA**) will support the City of Los Angeles' own African American Engineers and Professional Employees Association by staffing a booth in support during the annual Youth Science and Technology Awareness Day on Saturday, **May 19, 2012**, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Volunteers are being sought to help staff the booth. If you can help or have questions about either event, contact President Geoffrey Owu at (626) 458-5914.
- **AAEPEA** will also host its annual recognition reception for members and volunteers of the Black History Committee at 12 noon, on Wednesday, **May 30, 2012**, in Conference Room B at Public Works Headquarters.
- The Filipino American Public Works Employees Association is organizing their next fundraising Bike Ride on Saturday, **May 19, 2012**. This event will highlight a 20-mile bike ride along the San Gabriel River Bike trail. There will be a picnic area reserved for the participants and lunch (included with the registration fee) will be provided. Proceeds from this fundraiser will go towards the October cultural event. Please contact Eric Baul at (626) 458-6191.
- Public Works' Diversity Council will celebrate Asian-Pacific American Heritage Month on Monday, **May 21, 2012**, 11:30 a.m. – 1 p.m. at Public Works Headquarters. Guest speaker, J.D. Hokoyama, past president, CEO and founding member of LEAP (Leadership Education for Asian Pacifics, Inc.) will present: "**Become Visible: Let Your Voice Be Heard.**"
- Public Works Women's Leadership Council will have their Field Outreach meeting on Wednesday, **May 30, 2012**, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Public Works Central Yard, Material Lab. There will be a presentation on Career Path/Planning by Public Works Diversity Manager, Flora Wieggers. For details, please call Lakisha Nelson at (626) 338-9515.

Test Your Knowledge: Name the Person!

1. He is a Chinese-American cellist, virtuoso and composer.
2. He was the founder of the Jeet Kune Do martial arts movement.
3. He is the world's most successful movie director of Jewish heritage.

(Answers below)

Diversity Calendar

- **Thursday, May 10 – Sunday, May 20, 2012** - The Los Angeles Asian Pacific Film Festival. For ticket and program information go to: www.vconline.org/festival.
- **Saturday, May 12, 2012, 11 a.m. – 4 p.m.** Celebrate Asian-Pacific American Heritage month with arts, crafts, and food for the whole family at the Japanese-American National Museum. For a complete list of events visit www.janm.org/events.

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