

# DiversiTea

Issue 26 | May 2022



## Asian American Pacific Islander *heritage month*





Explore Google's Arts & Cultures series featuring stories and artworks across Asian Pacific American Cultures

This month, we celebrate the communities of Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders. These groups make up about 6% of the country's population and represent a wide array of traits omnipresent in American culture. To celebrate AAPI heritage, both as a member of this community and as an ally, take time this month to uplift their collective voices through education, advocacy, philanthropy, and/or service.





A view from my home in the PI :)



In Tagalog, we have a word to describe people like me: balikbayan- someone who lives abroad, but whose heart and home is still in the Philippines. My parents were part of a wave of tens of thousands of Filipino health workers who immigrated to the U.S. in the early 80s, leaving behind all their friends and families. But with them, they made sure to bring along their customs and traditions. Despite being born in Virginia, I still had a strong connection to Filipino culture. As young as the age of 3, I was taking the 18-hour flight back home to the Philippines every few years, spending a month hopping from town to town and visiting all of our loved ones. In between trips, I spent my days eating the same foods my parents ate as kids, watching teleseryes on The Filipino Channel with my lolo and lola.

But like many Asian-Americans growing up, I had to find a balance between my culture at home and the world that I lived in. I was always stuck in the hyphen, navigating the cross-section between being Filipino and being American. It meant starting to pack sandwiches because it was too hard to explain my cultural foods to others at the lunch table; it meant convincing my grandma why I didn't need to use papaya soap after getting a tan at the beach. Even as I explored career choices, I found myself torn between the two worlds. Filipinos hold the belief that rest is essential when you are injured or sick; yet the concept that movement is medicine is core to physical therapy.

My experience is just one of many – in 2020, over 25 million individuals identified as Asian or Pacific Islander. With over 50 ethnic backgrounds falling underneath this umbrella term of AAPI, each one of us has our own story and unique way in which their identities interact. This AAPIHM, I implore you to take some time to learn about our communities and the places we call home.

**Maybelle Singson**

# EVENTS



## NCAAT ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH PARTY IN THE PARK

**Friday, May 20th  
4:30pm-9:30pm**

Moore Square Park, Raleigh

Free entry for all with asian artists,  
vendors, food, and performances!

**CLICK HERE FOR  
MORE INFO**

## DUKE FIRSTS SEMINAR SERIES

•• 05/18/2022  
•• 6-7 pm EDT  
•• RSVP link: <https://duke.is/n47a8>  
•• *Get reimbursed for your meal for up to \$15!*

### Dr. Yi Wang

Dr. Yi Wang obtained his MBA from Duke Fuqua, after which he joined a Duke spinout in Durham in the role of business development to commercialize novel biomanufacturing technology in gene therapy. Prior to Duke, he was a tenured Professor in Public Health at Indiana University. As a first-generation immigrant from China, he is passionate about equity and health disparity. His work has contributed to health equity in Indiana and was recognized by the City of Indianapolis and de Beaumont Foundation. He is an incoming Blavatnik Fellow at Yale University. He received his PhD from University of Michigan Ann Arbor and his postdoctoral training from Brown University.



### Duke F1RSTS Seminar Series

Join the next alumni seminar with Dr. Yi Wang (MBA'21 Fuqua), a previous tenured Professor in Public Health, currently working to commercialize novel biomanufacturing technology in gene therapy.

**SIGN UP HERE!**



# READ

Click on photos to read



## “The Stories We Tell, And Don’t Tell, About Asian-American Lives”

by Hua Hsu



## AAPI Mental Health

by NAMI

National Alliance on Mental Illness

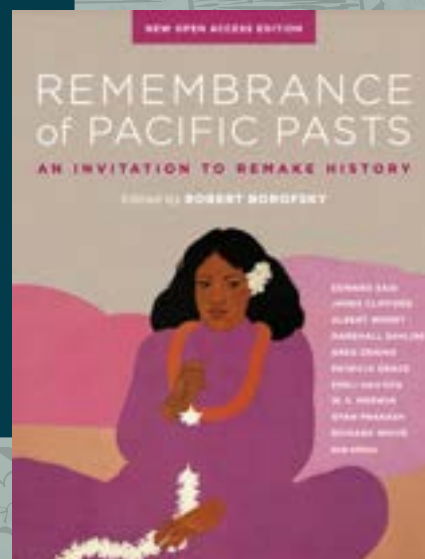
## SELECTED POEMS FROM REMEMBRANCE OF PACIFIC PASTS: AN INVITATION TO REMAKE HISTORY

BY ROBERT BOROFSKY

“Moe‘uhane” by Joseph Balanz  
(pg. 361)

“Mixed Blood” by Teresia Kieuea Teaiwa  
(pgs. 383-384)

“Our Pacific” by Vaine Rasmussen  
(pgs. 399-400)



# WATCH



## A3 BOOK MONTH 2022 FROM THE ASIAN AUTHOR ALLIANCE

The Asian Author Alliance has multiple scheduled roundtable discussions featuring many prominent and successful Asian-American authors, writers, and poets. The discussions vary by date and include topics such as cultural representation, grade-school book selections, and the importance of preserving history. Previous years' discussions can also be viewed on that same YouTube page.

## BAO, BY DOME SHI

A tear-jerking animated short shown before Incredibles 2, Domee Shi's Bao follows an empty-nester Chinese mother that raises an anthropomorphic bao bun through its childhood and adolescence. Shi, the first woman to direct a Pixar short, based this film on her own mother. Recognize how food is utilized as a metaphor for the connection between an immigrated parent and their American-raised child. Bao was the winner of the 2019 Oscar for Best Animated Short Film.



## "WHY I KEEP SPEAKING UP, EVEN WHEN PEOPLE MOCK MY ACCENT", BY SAFWAT SALEEM



"..I can challenge that preexisting notion of 'normal' with my work and with my voice and with my accent." Safwat Saleem, a Pakistani-American who describes himself as "a multidisciplinary artist, a professional immigrant and baker of cakes", gave a riveting TEDtalk in 2016 surrounding the prejudice he faces online for his accent. He utilizes his voice acting work to dispel our 'normal' perceptions in what we hear, see, and think.

# Donate

Support AAPI-Owned Businesses in the Triangle this month!



## NCAAT

According to the News & Observer, there are a little under 200,000 Asian American voters in North Carolina and had a 72% voter turnout rate in the last election, lower than the white population but higher than Black and Hispanic voting groups. Although this cohort is a strong voting force, Asian American representation in local and state politics is still lacking. North Carolina Asian Americans Together aims to support and promote candidates from the AAPI community to create a more equitable political field within the Tar Heel State.

## Transplanting Traditions Community Farm

Transplanting Traditions Community Farm (TTCF) is a local nonprofit that supports refugees through local food. They provide agricultural resources, financial education, and traditional crops to refugee farmers from Burma. The work of TTCF also fosters a sense of community among a historically isolated population.

## AAPCHO

The Association of Asian Pacific Community Health Organizations (AAPCHO) is a national entity to advocate for the medical needs of the AAPI community. AAPCHO creates culturally and linguistically appropriate resources to promote the services of community health centers, while simultaneously working with healthcare systems to address the needs of Asian-American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islanders.

## Church Street Park: The Future of Cricket in America

In February of this year, USA Cricket announced the development of a Major League Cricket stadium in the suburban Triangle town of Morrisville, NC. This is incredible news for local cricket fans and Triangle investors alike. The stadium will be an extreme makeover to the current field at Church Street Park, adding more than 2,000 permanent seats, broadcasting infrastructure, and fresh turf. It will be so state-of-the-art, in fact, that the facility will bid to be a host venue for the 2024 T20 Men's World Cup. Church Street Park is the grandest initiative in the push to turn Morrisville, centrally located in a region that is burgeoning with global residents, into an American cricket hub.