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Featured Bookshelf: 2017 Asian Pacific American Heritage Month

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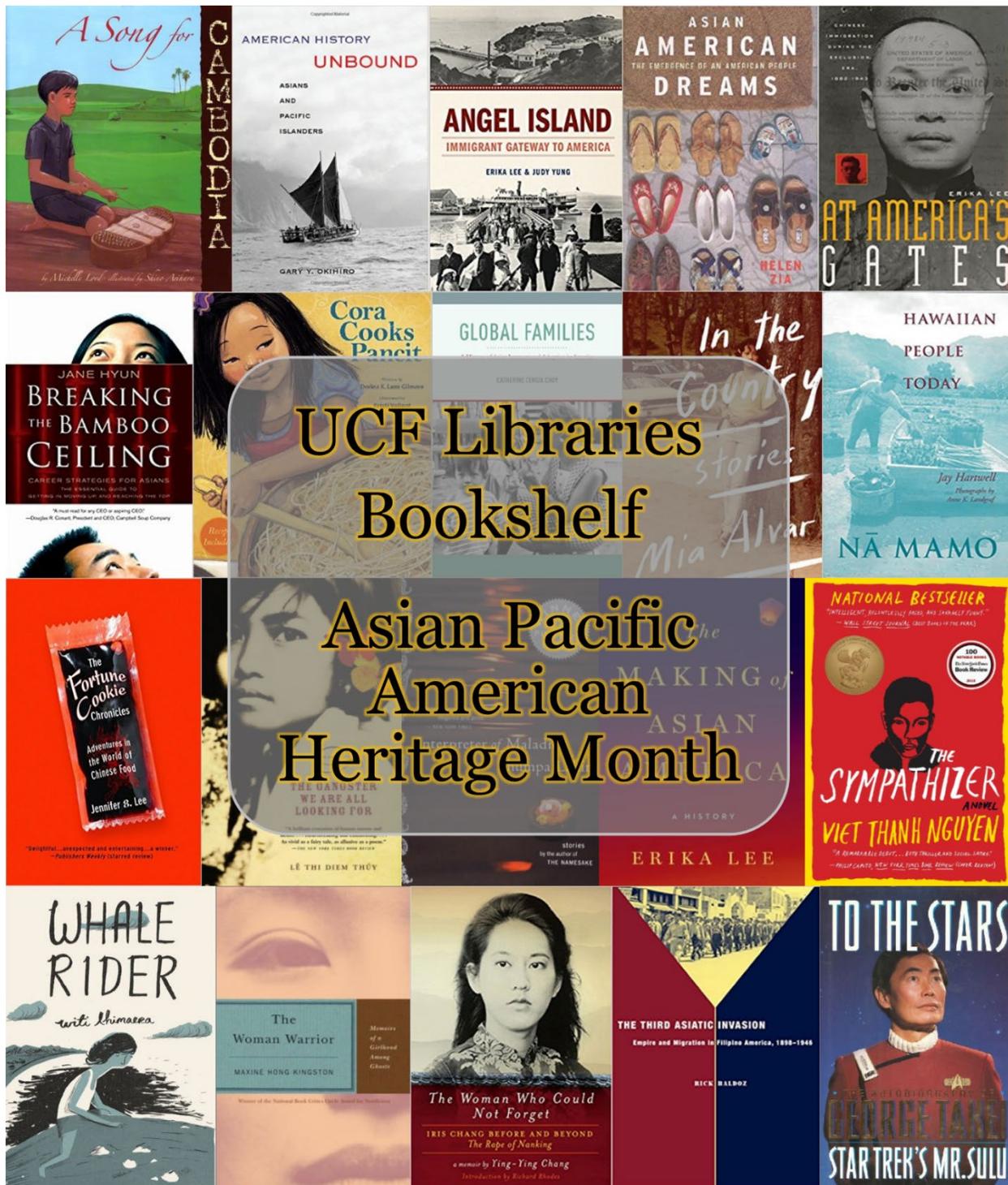
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May was officially designated as Asian Pacific American Heritage Month by Congress in 1992 ([Public Law 102-450](#) if you want to read the specifics).

As you can imagine, Asian Pacific American covers a fair amount of area. An Asian Pacific American is an American (whether born, naturalized, or other) who was born on or has heritage from anywhere on 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). These areas cover a wide array of languages, cultures, religions, and ethnicities that have brought countless skills, hopes and dreams to the United States. The more voices that are heard the better we all are so (if you'll pardon the *dun dun*) these are some of their stories.

[A Song for Cambodia](#) by Michelle Lord, illustrated by Shino Arihara

A biography of Arn Chorn-Pond who, as a young boy in 1970s Cambodia, survived the Khmer Rouge killing fields because of his skills on the khim, a traditional instrument, and later went on to help heal others and revive Cambodian music and culture.

Suggested by Sandy Avila, Research & Information Services

[American History Unbound: Asians and Pacific Islanders](#) by Gary Y. Okihiro

Focusing on a survey of US history from its beginnings, this book reveals our past through the lens of Asian American and Pacific Islander history.

Suggested by Peter Spyers-Duran, Cataloging

[Angel Island: Immigrant Gateway to America](#) by Erika Lee and Judy Yung

From 1910 to 1940, the Angel Island immigration station in San Francisco served as the processing and detention center for over one million people from around the world. The full history of these immigrants and their experiences on Angel Island is told for the first time in this landmark book.

Suggested by Peter Spyers-Duran, Cataloging

[Asian American Dreams: the Emergence of an American People](#) by Helen Zia

This book is about the transformation of Asian American; from a few small, disconnected, and largely invisible ethnic groups that is influenced in every aspect of American society. It explores the junctures that shocked Asian Americans into motion and shaped a new consciousness, including the murder of Vincent Chin, a Chinese American, by two white autoworkers who believed he was Japanese; the apartheid-like working conditions of Filipinos in the Alaska salmon canneries; the boycott of Korean American greengrocers in Brooklyn; the L.A. riots; and the casting of non-Asians in the Broadway musical Miss Saigon. The book also examines the rampant stereotyping of Asian Americans, which has an impact on key issues concerning all Americans, from affirmative action and campaign finance to popular culture and national security.

Suggested by Chris Saclolo, Special Collections & University Archives

[At America's gates: Chinese Immigration During the Exclusion Era, 1882-1943](#) by Erika Lee

Devoted to both Chinese immigrants and the American immigration officials who sought to keep them out following the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882, this text explores the consequences for the Chinese and

for the USA as a nation of immigrants.

Suggested by Peter Spyers-Duran, Cataloging

[Breaking the Bamboo Ceiling: Career Strategies for Asians: the Essential Guide to Getting In, Moving Up, and Reaching the Top](#) by Jane Hyun

The popular media often portrays Asian Americans as highly educated and successful individuals' the "Model Minority." As the ethnic minority with the largest percentage of college graduates, many Asian Americans do enter the professional workforce. However, many of them seem to stall in their careers and never make it to the corner offices. Leading executive coach Jane Hyun explores how traditional Asian values can be at odds with Western corporate culture. By using anecdotes, case studies, and exercises, Hyun offers practical solutions for resolving misunderstandings and overcoming challenges in an increasingly multicultural workplace.

Suggested by Peter Spyers-Duran, Cataloging

[Cora Cooks Pancit](#) by Dorina K. Lazo Gilmore

When all her older siblings are away, Cora's mother finally lets her help make pancit, a Filipino noodle dish. Includes recipe for pancit.

Suggested by Cindy Dancel, Research & Information Services

[Global Families: a History of Asian International Adoption in America](#) by Catherine Ceniza Choy

Based on extensive archival research, Global Families moves beyond one-dimensional portrayals of Asian international adoption as either a progressive form of U.S. multiculturalism or as an exploitative form of cultural and economic imperialism. Rather, Choy acknowledges the complexity of the phenomenon, illuminating both its radical possibilities of a world united across national, cultural, and racial divides through family formation and its strong potential for reinforcing the very racial and cultural hierarchies it sought to challenge.

Suggested by Peter Spyers-Duran, Cataloging

[In the Country: Stories](#) by Mia Alvar

Exploring the Filipino experience spanning decades and continents, these fully rendered tales express wonder and sadness leavened with humor.

Suggested by Megan Haught, Teaching & Engagement/Research & Information Services

[Na Mamo: Hawaiian People Today](#) by Jay Hartwell

Biographies of ten contemporary Hawaiians engaged in a variety of traditional cultural practices. Each chapter is introduced by a chant or poem composed by a Native Hawaiian.

Suggested by Megan Haught, Teaching & Engagement/Research & Information Services

[The Fortune Cookie Chronicles: Adventures in the World of Chinese Food](#) by Jennifer 8 Lee

A woman's search for the world's greatest Chinese restaurant proves that egg rolls are as American as apple pie.

Suggested by Christina Wray, Digital Learning & Engagement Librarian, and Carrie Moran, User Engagement Librarian

[The Gangster We Are All Looking For](#) by Lê Thi Diem Thúy

In 1978 six refugees—a girl, her father, and four “uncles”—are pulled from the sea to begin a new life in San Diego. In the child’s imagination, the world is transmuted into an unearthly realm: she sees everything intensely, hears the distress calls of inanimate objects, and waits for her mother to join her. But life loses none of its strangeness when the family is reunited. As the girl grows, her matter-of-fact innocence eddies increasingly around opaque and ghostly traumas: the cataclysm that engulfed her homeland, the memory of a brother who drowned and, most inescapable, her father’s hopeless rage.

Suggested by Megan Haught, Teaching & Engagement/Research & Information Services

[The Interpreter of Maladies](#) by Jhumpa Lahiri

Stories about Indians in India and America. The story, A Temporary Matter, is on mixed marriage, Mrs. Sen's is on the adaptation of an immigrant to the U.S., and in the title story an interpreter guides an American family through the India of their ancestors.

Suggested by Megan Haught, Teaching & Engagement/Research & Information Services

[The Making of Asian America: a History](#) by Erika Lee

The Making of Asian America tells the little-known history of Asian Americans and their role in American life, from the arrival of the first Asians in the Americas to the present-day. An epic history of global journeys and new beginnings, this book shows how generations of Asian immigrants and their American-born descendants have made and remade Asian American life in the United States: sailors who came on the first trans-Pacific ships in the 1500s; indentured "coolies" who worked alongside African slaves in the Caribbean; and Chinese, Japanese, Filipino, Korean, and South Asian immigrants who were recruited to work in the United States only to face massive racial discrimination, Asian exclusion laws, and for Japanese Americans, incarceration during World War II. Over the past fifty years, a new Asian America has emerged out of community activism and the arrival of new immigrants and refugees. No longer a "despised minority," Asian Americans are now held up as America's "model minorities" in ways that reveal the complicated role that race still plays in the United States. But more than that, it is a new way of understanding America itself, its complicated histories of race and immigration, and its place in the world today.

Suggested by Ven Basco, Subject Librarian, and Peter Spyers-Duran, Cataloging

[The Sympathizer](#) by Viet Thanh Nguyen

The story of a South Vietnamese captain--a man brought up by an absent French father and a poor

Vietnamese mother, a man who went to university in America--who returns to Vietnam to fight for the Communist cause.

Suggested by Ven Basco, Subject Librarian

[The Whale Rider](#) by Witi Ihimaera

As her beloved grandfather, chief of the Maori tribe of Whangara, New Zealand, struggles to lead in difficult times and to find a male successor, young Kahu is developing a mysterious relationship with whales, particularly the ancient bull whale whose legendary rider was their ancestor.

Suggested by Sandy Avila, Research & Information Services

[The Woman Warrior: Memoirs of a Girlhood Among Ghosts](#) by Maxine Hong Kingston

A memoir of the American-born daughter of Chinese immigrants who lived within the traditions and fears of the Chinese past as well as the realities of the alien modern American culture.

Suggested by Christina Wray, Digital Learning & Engagement Librarian

[The Woman Who Could Not Forget: Iris Chang Before and Beyond the Rape of Nanking](#) by Ying-Ying Chang

Iris Chang's best-selling book *The Rape of Nanking* forever changed the way we view the Second World War in Asia. It all began with a photo of a river choked with the bodies of hundreds of Chinese civilians that shook Iris to her core. Who were these people? Why had this happened and how could their story have been lost to history? She could not shake that image from her head. She could not forget what she had seen. A few short years later, Chang revealed this 'second Holocaust' to the world. But who was this woman that single-handedly swept away years of silence, secrecy and shame? Her mother, Ying-Ying, provides an enlightened and nuanced look at her daughter, from Iris' home-made childhood newspaper, to her early years as a journalist and later, as a promising young historian, her struggles with her son's autism and her tragic suicide.

Suggested by Ven Basco, Subject Librarian

[Third Asiatic Invasion: Migration and Empire in Filipino America, 1989-1946](#) by Rick Baldoz

Rick Baldoz explores the complex relationship between Filipinos and the U.S. by looking at the politics of immigration, race, and citizenship on both sides of the Philippine-American divide: internationally through an examination of American imperial ascendancy and domestically through an exploration of the social formation of Filipino communities in the United States. He reveals how American practices of racial exclusion repeatedly collided with the imperatives of U.S. overseas expansion. A unique portrait of the Filipino American experience, *The Third Asiatic Invasion* links the Filipino experience to that of Puerto Ricans, Mexicans, Chinese and Native Americans, among others, revealing how the politics of exclusion played out over time against different population groups.

Suggested by Ven Basco, Subject Librarian

[To the Stars: The Autobiography of George Takei, Star Trek's Mr. Sulu](#) by George Takei

Popular Star Trek television star George Takei recounts his life and career from his childhood internment in World War II camps through his visionary experiences on the set as Mr. Sulu.

Suggested by Cindy Dancel, Research & Information Services