

## Important Moments in History

1843 The first Japanese immigrants to the United States arrived on May 7th.

1858 First Japanese American sworn in as citizen, Hamada Hikoza.

1869 The transcontinental railroad was completed, due to the reliance on Chinese immigrant laborers, who laid over 90% of the tracks.



1898 The United States annexes the Republic of Hawai'i, officially making the islands a territory of the United States.

1900 America Samoa becomes an official territory of the United States with the signing of the Deed of Cession.

1903 First waves of Korean and Filipino immigrants arrive in the United States.

1907 Immigration from India begins.

1950 People of Guam are granted citizenship through Act of Congress.

1959 Hawai'i becomes the official 50th state of the union.

1965 George Takei is cast as Mr. Sulu in the second Star Trek pilot and the ensuing television series.

1969 June Millington forms Fanny-one of the first all female rock groups to be signed to a major label.

1970 Jim Toy comes out as queer at an anti-Vietnam rally in Kennedy Square, Detroit, officially the first person to do so publicly in Michigan.



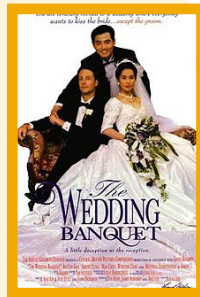
1978 Jimmy Carter enacts the inaugural Asian-Pacific Heritage Week for the first week in May.

1979 Lesbian and Gay Asian Alliance founded to address the impact of racism on gay and lesbian Asian Pacific American communities.

1988 Civil Liberties Act of 1988 signed by President Regan as an act of contrition for Japanese internment during World War II.

1990 George Bush extends API Heritage to the entire month of May.

Esera Tuaolo gets drafted by the Green Bay Packers.



1992 API heritage Month is signed into law.

1993 The Wedding Banquet-an Academy Award nominated for Best Foreign Language Film- written and directed by Ang Lee was released. The story is about a gay Taiwanese man who is forced to marry a woman to appease his parents.

1996 Jenny Shimizu appeared in the independent film, Foxfire.

1999 Urooj Arshad attends the National Youth Advocacy Coalition youth summit in Washington, DC and begins to integrate her Muslim heritage into her work.

2002 Ghalib Shiraz Dhalla publishes Ode to Lata, one of the first novels to tackle South Asian gay life from the perspective of an author born on the African continent.

2005 Pauline Park is the first openly transgender person to be named grand marshal of the NYC Pride Parade.

2006 Kim Coco Iwamoto is elected to the Hawai'i Board of Education, the first openly transgender official to win a statewide election. (See our Women's History Month Heroes for more info).

2008 Jose Antonio Vargas is part of the team at the Washington Post who receives a Pulitzer Prize.

2012 Mark Takano becomes first openly gay Asian American elected to US House of Representatives.



2013 First openly lesbian Asian American on the federal bench confirmed, Pamela Ki Mai Chen.

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