



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

ASIAN-PACIFIC AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

May is Asian-Pacific American Heritage Month, a great time to recognize the achievements and history of Asian Americans—especially as it relates to the YMCA



It's Asian-Pacific American Heritage Month, and we're celebrating the history of Asian Americans within the YMCA. Did you know that the first Chinese-American YMCA was founded in San Francisco in 1911? The Y held lectures on health, education, classes in English and Mandarin and had a machine shop! To this day, the Chinatown YMCA plays a pivotal role in the community.

: YMCA of San Francisco



It's Asian-Pacific American Heritage Month, and we're celebrating the history of Asian Americans within the YMCA. Duke Kahanamoku was a gold medal Olympic swimmer who trained at the Central Y, setting world records for the 400 and 500 relay races in 1916. Following his Olympic career retirement, Kahanamoku traveled giving swimming exhibitions—it was during this time that he popularized the sport of surfing in the United States, which previously had only been known in Hawaii.

It's Asian-Pacific American Heritage Month, and we're celebrating the history of Asian Americans within the YMCA. Fred Hoshiyama lived his entire life in association with the Y. Born in 1914, Hoshiyama worked for the YMCA fulltime for 39 years—from 1941 through 1980—save for his time in a government internment camp during WWII. Even there though, he kept the Y with him, helping to create YMCA-based programs to help address the social, educational and recreational needs of the Japanese-Americans held in the camp.



Hoshiyama was the founder and national director of YMCA's National Youth Program Using Mini-Bikes and also helped to establish the National Association of Student YMCAs in the 1970s, revitalizing the YMCA student movement.

Today, a scholarship in Hoshiyama's name provides professional development for YMCA staff of Asian/Pacific Islander heritage.

: YMCA Photo Archives