May is Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month

Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month (AAPI Heritage Month) is an annual celebration that recognizes the historical and cultural contributions to the United States, of individuals and groups of Asian and Pacific Islander descent. The AAPI umbrella term includes cultures from the entire Asian continent—including East, Southeast and South Asia—and the Pacific Islands of Melanesia, Micronesia and Polynesia.

For the Jane Addams Peace Association, Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month is every month. Until everyone learns that U.S.A. history reflects this, and the contributions of AAPI people are regularly acknowledged and celebrated, this month is necessary. Here we highlight some books and resources to help propel understanding and action to eradicate oppression, discrimination, and violence against the AAPI community. We believe these books can increase understanding, dialogue and joy around diverse Asian American and Pacific Islander identities, culture, contributions and histories.

Learn More About AAPI Month
Finalist for the 2024 Jane Addams Children's Book Award for Chapter Books

*Land of Broken Promises*, written by Jane Kuo

Anna is a Taiwanese immigrant who has just moved to California with her family. She struggles with the change for a year and is finally feeling settled when her parents realize their visas have expired. Her parents warn her to avoid telling her friends, but Anna finds it difficult to keep this heavy secret. Being undocumented makes life much more complicated, and this book is the story of Anna's difficult journey navigating undocumented life in America.
Finalist for the 2023 Jane Addams Children's Book Award for Chapter Books

*Dream, Annie, Dream*, written by Waka T. Brown

Annie is the daughter of two Japanese immigrants who wanted to come to the United States for a better life. She's encouraged to dream big, and for her, this means trying out for the lead role in her school play. She manages to land a major role, but her success is tainted by whispers from her classmates that she only got the part because she's Asian. How will Annie rise above the racist comments of her classmates and reclaim her identity?

Finalist for the 2024 Jane Addams Children's Book Award for Chapter Books

*Top Story*, written by Kelly Yang
Mia Tang is so excited about winter break. She is going to attend journalism camp and wants to write about the things she encounters in San Francisco's Chinatown. However, when Mia gets to camp, she realizes that the kids there have access to more resources, fancier equipment, and already seem ahead of the game. Her friend Lupe is thinking about skipping some grades to go to college ahead of her and her friend Jason is preoccupied with a new crush. How will Mia manage to compete with the other kids? How will she handle her friend drama?

Finalist for the 2022 Jane Addams Children's Book Award for Chapter Books

Unsettled, written by Reem Faruqi

Nurah's family has just moved from Pakistan to Peachtree City. Nurah feels isolated and different from the other kids at her new school, until she meets Stahr at swimming tryouts. Nurah desperately wants to do well on the swim team; she wants to win medals and be recognized for her hard work. However, tensions arise as she clashes with her older brother who is a star athlete. How will Nurah learn to navigate her sibling rivalry, feel at home in the U.S., and find her place?

The 2024 Jane Addams Peace Association Awards

“But activism and humanism come from the same wellspring. Faith in people”- Katherine Marsh, 2024 JAPA Award Ceremony
Authors With Selection Committee Members

(From left to right) Dora Guzman, Jongsun Wee, Rob Sanders, Ami Polonsky, Byron McCray, Katherine Marsh, Nanesha Nunez, Natasha Grey, Morika Tsujimura

Authors With Board of Directors

(From left to right) Tatesha Clark, Jeffrey Merino, Ross Stanton Jordan, Rob Sanders, Ami Polonsky, Byron McCray, Katherine Marsh, Angela Medina (Executive Director), Jenice Mateo Toledo, Sherille Raymond
On April 26th, 2024, the Jane Addams Peace Association celebrated the winners and honorees of the 2024 Jane Addams Children's Book Award. This joyous ceremony featured talks from our amazing authors and illustrators, book signings, and a Q and A with the award winners and honorees. Thank you to everyone who came out to celebrate! The ceremony was a joyous success. If you couldn't make it, the livestream is available to watch on Facebook (link below).

2024 Raffle Winners!

Book Giveaways!

Watch the JAPA Awards Livestream!

A very special thanks to Teaching Books for making their invaluable database of children's literature and related sources available to everyone.
Hudson Valley Books for Humanity

67 Central Ave, Ossining, NY 10562

This independent bookstore is located in the historic Olive Opera House in New York. They have a variety of different types of books to choose from, from new books to preloved and collectible ones. Founded by Amy Hall, one of this bookstore's missions is to save books from landfills. Centering both climate justice and social justice issues, this store follows a "slow business" model by locally sourcing books and carefully packaging orders.

Find Out More About Hudson Valley Books

Harriett's Bookshop
This bookshop is named after Black historical icon Harriett Tubman. With a dedication to justice, they celebrate women leaders, creators, and authors. It opened in February 2020, and its founder, Jeannine A. Cook, emphasizes the importance of looking at distributing books as a creative practice. This bookstore is part of a group called the "Our Sister Bookshops." The second bookstore is located in New Jersey, named "Ida's Bookshop" after the historic figure Ida B. Wells. Both shops are owned by Cook, and emphasize continuing the legacy of these women in an ongoing project of community rallying and education.

Order Books From Harriett's Bookshop

Support Our Work!

The Jane Addams Peace Association perpetuates the spirit of activist and pacifist Jane Addams, her love for children and humanity, her commitment to freedom and democracy, and her devotion to the cause of world peace.

Your donation to the Jane Addams Peace Association, a 501(c)(3) organization, is tax-deductible and helps us support authors, illustrators, parents, teachers, and librarians deepen understanding of peace and justice for children and their adults through reflection, dialogue, and social action.

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