

# PEER BIAS LEADERS NEWSLETTER

## APRIL 2021

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Welcome to the Peer Bias Leaders Newsletter. We are the Peer Bias Leaders, a student-led equity and inclusivity group at Haddonfield Memorial High School. Each month, we plan to release a monthly newsletter curated by students discussing the importance of equity through books, articles, discussion topics, and more. With this newsletter, we hope to foster conversations and self-education that act as the foundation for change within our community.

*In light of recent events, the Peer Bias Leaders fully condemn the senseless attacks on the Asian community that led to the loss of innocent lives. We recognize that hate towards AAPI individuals is not new, and is similar to other forms of injustice that have been present throughout our country's history. We must come together as a community, and a nation, to recognize, address, and overcome the prejudices that lead to Asian hate.*



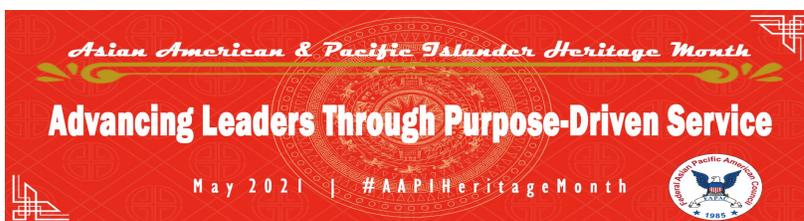
### **Dr. Connie Wun, Co-Founder of AAPI Women Lead**

“We’ve been hurting for a long time, and we’ve been working to create solutions for just as long. Now, finally, our stories are getting some attention. Hopefully, resources will come next...”

“this moment is a reminder to build together, to continue to share our stories, to provide resources, to help one another address immediate needs and create long-lasting change. Our lives depend on it—and each other.”

For this month, the Peer Bias Leaders would like to highlight the upcoming celebration of Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month, which takes place annually during the month of May. This year’s theme is **Advancing Leaders Through Purpose-Driven Service**. This is the year to uplift leaders within the Asian community and to come together as a collective to address instances of anti-Asian bias and hate. I encourage you to explore with us the rich history of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, and what we as individuals can do to diminish anti-Asian hate.

- Mehki Rippey, President of the Peer Bias Leaders



## Background

- [FAPAC - AAPI Resources](#)
  - *History of AAPI Heritage Month*

## Discussion Topics

- Featured Figures



### *Josefa Llanes Escoda*

Born in the Philippines, Escoda is known for her advocacy for women's suffrage. She was a prominent civic leader and social worker, founding the Girl Scouts of the Philippines in 1940. -[YWCA](#)

### *Yuna Kim*



“Commonly referred to as “Queen Yuna”; Yuna was “the first female figure skater to achieve a grand slam under the current ISU judging system, broke the world record 11 times, eight of which being records she herself set. Throughout her entire career, she had never finished a competition lower than third place...cementing her status as one of the greatest figure skaters of all time”

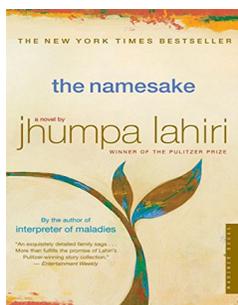
-[Yunakim.com](#)

- **Microaggressions**

- “brief and commonplace daily verbal, behavioral or environmental indignities”; a comment or action that communicates prejudice and/or bias against a person or group
- Saying “Ni Hao” to an Asian person- automatically assuming the person is Chinese
  - “You all look the same”- oversimplifies the many different ethnicities in Asia
  - “L\*ng L\*ng”- racial slur mocking East Asian features
  - “Do you eat dogs?”-stereotype that generalizes Asian ethnicities’ cultural norms; fixating on one part of a culture’s cuisine to alienate them
  - “You don’t look Asian”- never okay to tell someone they do not look like part of their identity

- “Where are you *really* from?”- extremely rude way to ask someone’s heritage; implies that implies they aren't American, alienates them
- Unfortunately there are many more microaggressions
  - the best way to address them as a non-Asian ally is to educate and speak up about it
    - Explicate what is offensive and problematic about certain phrases

## Reading:



### *The Namesake*

*“Pulitzer Prize winner Jhumpa Lahiri brilliantly illuminates the immigrant experience and the tangled ties between generations”*

## Podcasts of the Month

[Vanity Fair's 10 Essential Podcasts From AAPI Creators](#) - This is a great list of podcasts all from Asian American Pacific Islander creators. The podcast “Saturday School” is a great option for something to listen to with children. This podcast is all about Asian American pop culture history and is specifically made to be engaging and straightforward.

## Resources

### History & AAPI Culture

- [Understanding Our Perceptions of Asian Americans](#): “An overview essay on Asian Americans, including identity issues (perceptions and misperceptions, use of terminology, understanding demographics, and the extreme diversity contained within the term.)”
- [Why the Asian-American Story Is Missing From U.S. Classrooms](#)
- [Asian American Timeline - Immigration, Achievements & Famous Firsts](#): “A diverse population, the nation’s 20 million-plus Asian Americans have roots in more than 20 countries in Asia and India, according to the Pew Research Center, with Chinese, Indian, Filipino, Vietnamese, Korean and Japanese making up 85 percent of today’s Asian American population. Here’s a look at some of the notable milestones throughout Asian American history.”
- [The long history of racism against Asian Americans in the U.S.](#)
- [Asian-Americans Are Being Attacked. Why Are Hate Crime Charges So Rare](#): “Several recent attacks have not been charged as hate crimes, fueling protests and outrage among many Asian-Americans.”
- [Anti-Asian Attacks Rise During Pandemic. Read NPR's Stories On The Surge In Violence](#): “Crimes targeting Asian Americans have risen dramatically since the beginning of the coronavirus pandemic. Stop AAPI Hate, a coalition that tracks incidents of violence and harassment against Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in the U.S., reported nearly 3,800

instances of discrimination against Asians in the past year. The actual number could be much higher. Here's a collection of the conversations you can listen to or read to understand the uptick in violence against Asian Americans.”

- [Asian Americans and the Model Minority Dilemma | BU Today](#)
- [The mental health impact of anti-Asian racism](#): “The COVID-19 pandemic exacerbated xenophobia and bigotry toward Asian American and Pacific Islander communities. Psychologists are identifying ways to address the distress caused by that hate.”

### ***Quotes of the Month:***

“If you are trying to decrease the level of stigma, decrease the level of discrimination and hate and xenophobia; words matter”

- John C. Yang of Asian Americans Advancing Justice

### ***Student Corner:***

Join the HMHS community at **7:30 AM on May 3rd** in front of HMHS in a **Chalk Walk!** Students and staff will write small messages to show unity against the rise in anti Asian hate crimes. Some ideas of messages will be provided for inspiration.

