

LA VOZ UNIDA



E-NEWSLETTER

May is recognized annually as Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) Heritage Month and commemorates the history, legacy, heritage, and experiences of Asian American and Pacific Islanders in the United States. AAPI Heritage Month is an opportunity to highlight the historical and current contributions and achievements of Asian American and Pacific Islander immigrants, citizens, and ancestors in all aspects of American life, culture, traditions, and society. Official federal recognition of AAPI contributions began in 1977 and was proclaimed in 1979 with an "Asian/Pacific American Heritage Week." In 1990, Congress expanded the federal observation from a week to a month.

<https://inclusion.txst.edu/students/identity-empowerment/students-of-color/apida.html>



SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE



As we commemorate another cultural celebration – Asian American and Pacific Islander Month – via our School newsletter, please enjoy the opportunity to know one of our faculty members better and engage in overall learning about Asian and Pacific Islander cultures. As I continuously remind all of us, including myself, there is always something to learn about cultures and the many facets that comprise a culture. Therefore, I encourage us to keep learning and being curious to know more and be better. As long as we are living, we should be learning and as social workers and social work educators, learning is who we are!!! Enjoy!



DR. SHINWOO CHOI



DR. CHOI'S FAMILY

Dr. Choi was born and raised in South Korea and her family immigrated to Canada when she was in middle school. She came to the US when she started her MSW program in New York City. She then lived in the Midwest for five years and in Florida for several years until she found her new nest here in Texas! Since she has lived in three different countries almost equally throughout her life, she sometimes feels like her values and identities are a mixture of all the cultures she has encountered so far. Dr. Choi describes her cultural identity/ethnicity as majorly South Korean.

Dr. Choi's paternal grandparents were North Korean defectors who fled to South Korea during the Korean War in 1950. With bare hands, her grandfather settled down in Seoul and worked very hard as a taxi driver to support the family, including his nephews, who became war orphans. That generation's survival mode/mentality influenced their children (her parents' generation), heavily emphasizing hard work, doing your best, and being frugal. Growing up, she was told many stories of her grandparents' and parents' hard work, perseverance, and the sacrifices they had made to care for the family. It didn't touch her heart that deeply because she had heard it so many times. But in 2014, she watched a movie entitled "Ode to My Father," which depicted a similar story of a character who survived the Korean War and raised his family in Busan, South Korea. Dr. Choi cried so much and felt sympathy and deep appreciation for her grandparents' lives and endurance during the challenging historical events in South Korea. So, although she has lived in many different places and was influenced by multi-cultures, she takes pride in being a South Korean and is happy to make her grandparents and parents proud.

As she shared, Dr. Choi has lived in different cultures and societies since she was young. Therefore, sometimes she feels like she doesn't belong anywhere because when she returns to Korea, it has changed so much over the last twenty-something years (and she has also changed so much). After going through some identity crisis, she has decided to appreciate and embrace the different aspects of cultures she likes and accepts that there are some things that she doesn't like (especially the values that are against social work values). Mostly, she is now at peace with her identity being fluid.



#STOPASIANHATE



Watch on YouTube

WE NEED TO TALK ABOUT ASIAN HATE

[HTTPS://YOUTU.BE/14WUUYA94QE](https://youtu.be/14WUUYA94QE)



Watch on YouTube

ASIAN AMERICANS ENDURE LONG FIGHT AGAINST HISTORY OF EXCLUSION IN THE US

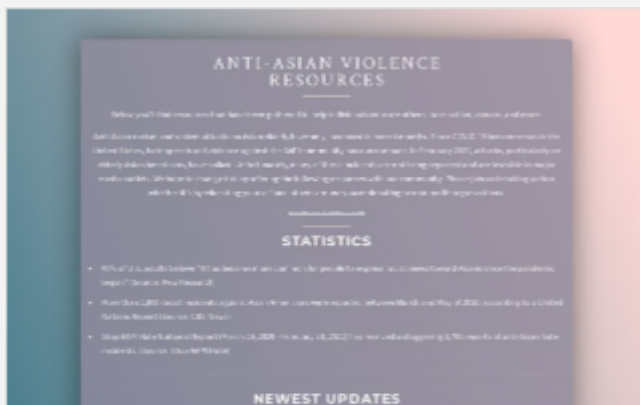
[HTTPS://WWW.YOUTUBE.COM/WATCH?V=IPJ3FR_AOD0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IPJ3FR_AOD0)



ASIAN AMERICANS SHARE THEIR EXPERIENCES WITH RACISM

[HTTPS://YOUTU.BE/PJUSKL-N6-8](https://youtu.be/PJUSKL-N6-8)

ANTI-ASIAN VIOLENCE RESOURCES



Anti-Asian Violence Resources

Anti-Asian racism and violent attacks on Asian elderly have only increased in recent months. Since COVID-19 became news in the United States, hate speech...



COMMUNITY EVENTS

Austin

Asian American Resource Center presents:
CELEBRASIA Austin 2023
Saturday, May 13th: 11 am-3 pm
Asian American Resource Center
8401 Cameron Rd. Austin, TX

Killeen

Central Texas Asian Pacific Festival
Saturday, May 6th - Sunday, May 7th
2201 E Veterans Memorial Blvd. Killeen, TX

San Antonio

San Antonio Museum of Art (SAMA) Family Day: Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month Celebration
Sunday, May 7th: 11 am-3 pm
200 W. Jones Ave. San Antonio, TX

Asian Festival 2023
Saturday, May 27th: 10 am-5 pm
UTSA Downtown Campus
501 W Cesar E Chavez Blvd. San Antonio, TX

Asian Pacific Heritage 5K
Monday, May 15th: 12 pm
1530 Femoyer St. Lackland AFB, TX

BEST ASIAN RESTAURANTS TO TRY IN SAN MARCOS BASED ON TOP YELP REVIEWS

1. Non La Vietnamese Fusion & Bar (4 stars out of 5)
2. HAPPY DRAGON - Chinese Food (3 stars)
3. K-BOP - Korean Food (4.5 stars)
4. Prik Nam Pla - Thai Food (4.5 stars)
5. Sakura - Sushi Bar (3.5 stars)
6. Don Japanese Kitchen (3 stars)
7. Taiwan Bowl (5 stars)
8. TORO-Ramen & Poke Barn (4 stars)
9. Umami Sushi - Japanese food, Korean food (4.5 stars)
10. Rollin' Bowl - Vietnamese food, Thai food, Sushi bar (3.5 stars)
11. Pho Tran88 - Vietnamese food (4.5 stars)
12. Ling Kitchen - Asian fusion, Dim Sum (5 stars)

COMMUNITY ADVERTISEMENT



Illicit Discharge Detection & Elimination
Hotline: *Help us keep the river clean!*

Did you know that any pollutants left on the ground can be washed into storm drains and end up in the San Marcos River? This is known as an illicit discharge. You can help keep the river pollution-free by calling 512.245.IDDE to report any illegal dumping or suspicious discharges (e.g., paint, oil, sediment, etc.).

Visit the [Texas State Stormwater Program website](https://www.txsstate.edu/stormwater) to learn more about pollution prevention efforts. If you have any questions, please email stormwater@txstate.edu.