

United State Department Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Oregon State Office

P.O. Box 2965

Portland, Oregon 97208



In Reply Refer to:

1400-713 (OR-956) P

May 6, 2004

EMS TRANSMISSION 05/06/2004

Information Bulletin No. OR-2004-123

To: All Oregon/Washington Employees
From: Chief, Branch of Equal Employment Opportunity
Subject: Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month, 2004

The month of May is designated as Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month. This month's theme is: ***"Freedom For All. A Nation We Call Our Own."*** Our Nation's rich cultural diversity reflects our Constitution's core vision of freedom and justice for all. Throughout our history, Asian/Pacific Americans have made great contributions to America's heritage and prosperity. The values and traditions of the Asian/Pacific American community - - love of family, hard work, entrepreneurship, excellence in education, and community service - - have helped unite us as a people and sustain us as a Nation.

During the observance of Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month, we celebrate the cultural traditions, ancestry, native languages, and unique experiences of more than 30 ethnic groups from Asia and the Pacific found here in the United States. This month we recognize several "Women of Hope." Let us be reminded of the stories of these women which inspire youth to see the people of hope who exist in their communities, so that they can maintain their determination in the face of adversity, commit themselves to action in the face of injustice, and fight for a better world for themselves and for those who will follow.

Manuela Albuquerque: Lawyer/Chief Legal Advisor for City of Berkeley, California and community activist; she is one of the founders of Narika, a non-profit California corporation which operates an information and referral phone line for South Asian women who are victims of domestic violence. Ms. Albuquerque's legal skills won attention and respect and led to her current position, as well as President of a statewide group of city attorneys. She has been a strong advocate for victims of domestic violence and has presented programs on bias and legal ethics.

2

Yuri Kochiyama: Beloved warrior for justice – the elder stateswoman for community and political activists across America. The daughter of Japanese immigrants, she was born in the United States and lived the life of a typical California teenager. That life and her political innocence ended when Pearl Harbor was bombed on December 7, 1941. That day, the FBI made a sweeping arrest of Japanese American males – her father was one of those arrested and died shortly thereafter. In 1943, Kochiyama's family became prisoners-of-war themselves when President Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066, leading to the forced incarceration of 120,000 Japanese Americans into concentration camps throughout the western United States. Kochiyama spent two years in Jerome, Arkansas,

surrounded by barbed wire and armed soldiers. This experience and her father's death made Kochiyama highly aware of governmental abuses and would forever bond her to those engaged in political struggles at home and around the world.

Phua Xiong: Dr. Phue Xiong is one of only eight Hmong doctors in the United States, of whom only two others are female. At age 22, she was the first Hmong in the Philadelphia area to graduate from college. From a young age, she has recognized both the burden and the opportunity that goes with being a pioneer in her field. Her journey from war refugee to community leader has taught her to fight for herself and others in the struggle against poverty and racism. As a result, she has dedicated her practice to "communities in need" and has become an eloquent spokesperson for the importance of adequate health care for the poor.

The Bureau of Land Management, Army Corps of Engineers and Region 6, Forest Service collaborated to present Special Emphasis Observance Programs. The events are held in the Robert Duncan Plaza Building (Oregon State Office) in Portland; however, other Districts are welcome to attend. Light refreshments will be served.

May 11, 2004: **Performer:** *Mark Moy, Mark Moy's Kung Fu & Tai Academy*

Keynote Speaker: *Danielle Gembala, Archaeologist, National Park Service. Topic: Asian American/Pacific Islander Contributions to the Northwest*

These events will take place in the 3rd Floor Conference Rooms H & J at 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

May 28, 2004: **Performer:** *Tee Tro Bigong Phillipino Dance Troop*

Keynote Speaker: *Art Iwasaki from the Oregon Nikkei Legacy Center*

These events will take place in the 3rd Floor Conference Rooms A, B, H & J at the same time.

Bureau managers and supervisors are encouraged to allow employees to participate in ceremonies and activities in observance of Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month. We also encourage District Offices to conduct activities in the field throughout the month of May. If you have questions or comments regarding these activities, please contact Monica Lindsey, BLM Special Emphasis Program Manager via email or at 503.808.6330.

Districts with Unions are reminded to notify their unions of this Information Bulletin and satisfy any bargaining obligations before implementation. Your servicing Human Resources Office or Labor Relations Specialist can provide you assistance in this matter.

Signed by
Karen D. Bell

Authenticated by
Mary O'Leary
Management Assistant

Distribution
WO-720 (LS, Room 302)-1