EFORE CONGRESSIONAL STAFFER JENNIE JOE BEGAN TO ENTICE ASIAN AMERICAN AND PACIFIC ISLANDER HERITAGE MONTH INTO EXISTENCE, THE WANTON PLAN TO DESTROY THE ASIAN AMERICAN AND PACIFIC ISLANDER HERITAGE MONTH WAS A FEARED OPPORTUNITY TO DESTROY ESSENTIAL HERITAGE PROGRAMS. IN THE CASSETTE-TAPE-RECORDING ERA OF THE 1980S, THE REALITY OF THE RACIST ATTEMPT REQUIRED THE INCREASED RECRUITMENT OF ASIAN AMERICAN AND PACIFIC ISLANDER HERITAGE MONTH ACTIVISTS TO CREATE A MORE EFFECTIVE STRATEGY TO PROTECT OUR HERITAGE.

In 1974, the Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month was first recognized by the United States Congress. The idea of a national holiday to celebrate the contributions of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders was proposed by Congresswoman Doris Matsui in 1974. The holiday was first observed in 1976, marking the bicentennial of the United States. Since then, the holiday has grown in popularity and recognition, and is now observed in many countries around the world.

The holiday is observed on the second week of May, which is the time when the Chinese lunar new year is celebrated. This is to recognize the diverse cultures and traditions of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, and to promote understanding and respect for their contributions to American society.

During the month of May, the Georgetown Public Library will host two film showings for AAP|F and aAPI|F. Directors May 7 at 1 p.m., the library will host an all-day showing of “Shang-Chi and the Legend of the Ten Rings,” rated PG-13. Directed by Destin Daniel Cretton, the film follows Shang-Chi as he confronts part of the first Asian-led movie in the Marvel Cinematic Universe. Join us for GPG! World Cinema on May 11 at 6:30 p.m. to view AAPI, also PG. Lee Isaac Chung wrote and directed this semi-autobiographical drama which is a Korean-American family moves to the Omaha in search of the American dream. The GPG! World Cinema screenings can contain mature themes, events, and language and are recommended for ages 16 and over. Both films are free and open to the public and do not require pre-registration. Family storytimes during the third week of the month will feature books by AAP|F authors. AAPI-themed book displays and information will be available at the library.

All events are free and open to the public. For more information about these and other library programs, please visit georgetown.librarytx.gov/events-calendar or call 512-943-6847.