

January Newsletter



"Girl of the Year" for 2023



(Source: American Girl)

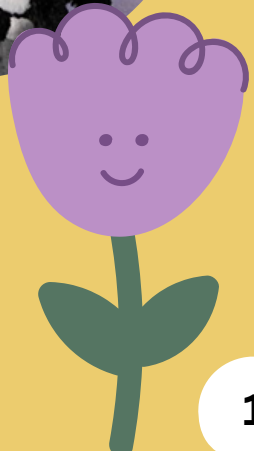
American Girl, the doll maker, recently just released their "Girl of the Year" for 2023. Her name is Kavi Sharma, short for Kavika. As you might have guessed from the name, Kavi is Desi. She's from New Jersey and loves to sing and dance. Her dream is to perform onstage one day, inspired after her grandma, Dadima, took her to see Wicked on Broadway on her 12th birthday.



Asian Americans are diverse and should not be lumped into one narrative, but we do have shared experiences. Many of our immigrant parents or grandparents came to the United States seeking the American Dream and toiled so much just for a better life. Sometimes, the experiences that they went through and the expectations that they have for the next generation might not always connect with the young ones. Kavi is not only able to balance her duties as a student and daughter but is able to find time and energy to nurture with the support of her entire family. With their encouragement, she takes a bold first step to perform at the school talent revue, serving as a springboard to her dream.



(Source: American Girl)





(Source: American Girl)

But Kavi isn't just your typical Asian American success story nor is it solely about Asian family culture. Through Kavi, Indian culture is highlighted and honored. She is not the first South Asian doll to be created by American Girl, but she is the first South Asian to be featured as the "Girl of the Year". There are some people who are skeptic about Kavi being portrayed as fair-skinned and that is a legitimate argument, but this is nevertheless a big leap in recognition of Indian Americans and a celebration of their heritage. There is a sense of pride, positive curiosity, and joy when seeing young minority girls embrace their ethnic wear. For Kavi, her wardrobe collection includes an ornate blue and red lehenga choli with matching gold jewelry.

Kavi's story will be shared in an illustrated paperback journal that comes with the doll and a hardcover novel, "It's Showtime, Kavi," by Varsha Bajaj debuting in March 2023. Bajaj was one of the experts who worked with American Girl to ensure Kavi's story details are rooted in authentic practices, culture, and the history of India.

**What was your favorite childhood toy?
Please share with us by clicking the button below.**

**Share your
story here**



(Source: American Girl)

2023 Chinese Zodiac Year of the Rabbit



What exactly is the Chinese zodiac and how did it come about? The Chinese zodiac, which is sometimes referred to as Shengxiao (which literally translates as "born resembling"), which is a cycle that lasts for a total of 12 years, and each year is attributed to a different animal. Starts with Rat, the Ox, the Tiger, the Rabbit, the Dragon, the Snake, the Horse, the Goat, the Monkey, the Rooster, the Dog, and the Pig are the 12 animals, listed in order.

Myths have it that the twelve animals that make up the Chinese zodiac were chosen through a competition that was open to all of the animals at the time. In order to win, the animals had to make it across a swift-moving river and arrive at the finish line on the shore. The winners of the first twelve places in the race will be picked to symbolize every twelve years of the Chinese zodiac.

The Chinese zodiac year 2023 is the fourth year of the cycle. Since the Rabbit represents the fourth zodiacal animal in China. Hence, 2023 is the Water Rabbit's year. To the Chinese, the Rabbit represents long life, harmony, and good fortune. Consequently, the Chinese believe that 2023 will be a year of hope.

SPOTLIGHT EVENTS

- Lunar New Year Festival - Jan 21st, 2023- Huston, TX
For more details: [CLICK HERE](#)
- Lunar New Year Celebration - Jan 21st, 2023- Livermore, CA
For more details: [CLICK HERE](#)
- Chinatown Chinese New Year Parade - Jan 29th, 2023 - Chinatown, Boston, MA
For more details: [CLICK HERE](#)