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Let's Celebrate Our Entire Community During AAPI Month

By Dave Somers, Snohomish County Executive

May is Asian American Pacific Islander (AAPI) Heritage Month. I want to encourage everyone in Snohomish County to take this time to learn a bit more about our AAPI communities and offer our support. The last year has been extremely tough for our AAPI family members, neighbors, and friends, with an increase nationally in hate crimes and acts of bigotry.

The AAPI community consists of approximately 50 ethnic groups, speaking over 100 languages with 1,000 different dialects. In Snohomish County, AAPI residents make up more than 13 percent of our population. Across the Pacific Northwest, members of the AAPI community have made rich contributions to agriculture, medicine, scientific research, business, aerospace, civics, education, culture, and more. However, hate crimes against the AAPI community have increased by 150 percent since the COVID-19 pandemic began. The organization [Stop AAPI Hate](#) has documented 3,795 attacks against members of the AAPI community from March 2020 through February 2021. Since not all attacks are reported or documented, these represent a fraction of all hate crimes against AAPI individuals. These attacks included physical assault, verbal harassment, shunning, civil rights violations in workplaces, service being refused in businesses, and online harassment.



These acts of hate do not represent Snohomish County's values. What can we do to show meaningful support to members of our AAPI community? There are many ways to support the AAPI community:

- Donate to local organizations that provide resources to AAPI community members.
- Speak up and file a report with law enforcement if you witness a hate crime or incident.
- Attend a training; learn about AAPI history and discrimination against the AAPI community.
- Advocate for changes in policies that adversely impact the AAPI community.

Snohomish County must be a welcoming place for all our residents, and I will continue to honor the right of every community to be free from hate and harassment.

"Cranes for Peace" Fundraiser



The Asian tradition of 1,000 cranes represents granting a special wish, happiness, good fortune and is often used to symbolize peace.

Using art for peace, the Schack Art Center (2921 Hoyt Ave, Everett) and Caslon Jewelry are launching a fundraising campaign May 1 to end the rise of violence against Asian American Pacific Islanders (AAPI). Profits from all sales of Washi Origami Crane earrings are donated to the Stop AAPI Hate Center. This organization is a collaboration with the Asian Pacific Policy & Planning Council, Chinese for Affirmative Action, and the Asian American Studies Department at San Francisco State University. It tracks and reports violence, discrimination and harassment, as well as providing translation, advocacy and more.

On her own time, Snohomish County employee **Fay Lim** spearheads this fundraiser through her hobby, Caslon Jewelry, by designing and incorporating origami cranes into her jewelry. Earlier this year, the attack of a Bothell-area Japanese language high school teacher brought the violence closer to home. Fay's children had attended the high school, as well as taken Japanese language classes from the school.

Thank you for supporting the "Cranes for Peace" fundraising campaign to end AAPI hate.