

Asian American Pacific Islander (AAPI) Heritage Month

By Helen Boxwill

May is Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage Month. This is an opportunity to acknowledge the many contributions the Asian community has made to our country. At the same time, there has been an increase in hate incidents around the country and in our state against Asian Americans. The advocacy group Stop AAPI Hate confirms a total of 10,905 hate incidents were reported between March 19, 2020, and the end of December 2021, according to the group's new national report. Almost 40% more incidents had occurred in 2021 than in the roughly nine-month period of 2020.

The HABTF was fortunate to have Lucy Lu, a representative of the Long Island Chinese American Association, come to speak at one of our meetings. You can see her moving presentation here. <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1QzfW59OltzZMeXE4v-6hi8BQI0i0CMH7/view>

Ms. Lu recommended that schools need to intentionally work to support their AAPI students and to educate all students and staff about the history and accomplishments of this community. She recommended that school districts do the following:

1. Integrate AAPI history to the curriculum
2. Provide support and resources to the Asian community
3. Institute Upstanders, Bystander, and Anti Bias training for staff and students to increase understanding and provide tools to take action.
4. Conduct learning activities during Asian American Pacific Heritage Month

Ms. Lu provided the following videos:

- <https://www.weareteachers.com/anti-racism-videos/>
- [A Call for New Yorkers to stand up for the AAPI community](#)

Here are ideas for further education for teachers and interested people:

- [Asian American -Lesson Plans PBS](#)
- [Tips for AAPI Month](#)
- <https://www.weareteachers.com/resources-anti-asian-discrimination/>

For more information and to get involved in supporting the AAPI community in Huntington and Suffolk County, see these links.

- [Huntington Asian-American-task-force](#)
- [Suffolk County Asian American Advisory Board](#)

Enjoy the 12th Annual Virtual Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month Celebration, “One World, Many Culture” See the flier: [SCAAPI Heritage Month Flier](#)