

SALEM-KAWAGOE SISTER CITY ASSOCIATION

Cherry Blossom Day Statement

On behalf of the Salem-Kawagoe Sister City Association, the Board welcomes everyone to the virtual version of this year's celebration of spring. We look forward to all of us meeting in person next year to enjoy this annual festival.

While we enjoy this marker of spring, we feel sad and horrified by the violence occurring in our country and want to add our voices to those who condemn these acts. In Salem, just as across our country and around the world, the ugly presence of white supremacy and hatred has erupted and seems to be increasing. We take this opportunity to speak out against all acts of hatred and violence targeting Asian-Americans; Black, Indigenous and People of Color; Pacific Islander, Latinx and our LGBTQ+ community members. These actions are disturbing, unwarranted and illegal. They must stop.

We are committed to speaking up and working to free our community of these hateful acts. We encourage all of you to do the same. If you know a community member who needs support, please provide it. If you have an opportunity to shed light on, and condemn, these incidents in your families, your churches and other associations, please speak up. We all need to give our attention to these disturbing actions in order to show that they are not acceptable in a civil society or in our City of Peace.

Thank you for working with us to keep everyone in our community, and our visitors safe. No one should ever have to fear for their safety as they go about their lives. We appreciate your support and attention. Please enjoy the virtual festival and add your intentions of peace to ours.

Arthur Berman, President
Board members, including:
Linda Berman
Mako Hayashi-Mayfield
Sue Luft
Sarah Shinn
Linda Norris
Ozzie Rose
Alan Bushong
Trina Hmura