

The JAPANESE-AMERICAN CITIZENS LEAGUE  
New England Chapter  
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*(by Kei Kaneda)*

The New England Chapter of the Japanese-American Citizens League was re-established on February 25, 1979 in response to the growing influx of Japanese-Americans and Japanese Nationals to the New England area. This influx, combined with the increased interest in the Japanese people as a whole, prompted students and faculty members associated with various universities in the area to form a viable Japanese-American organization located in Cambridge. The previous chapter, formed in 1948, focused on reparations for the Japanese-Americans who were interned during WWII.

Today, the New England Chapter seeks to promote an accurate understanding of the history of the Japanese-American people. Programs are designed to provide Japanese-Americans with a definitive understanding of their own heritage, while affording compatriots and Japanese Nationals much insight into the nature of the Japanese-American experience and its significance in relation to the expanding interdependence between Japan and the U.S.. Given sufficient interest, future presentations may be offered in Japanese for the benefit of those who are more comfortable with the Japanese language than English.

Membership currently numbers thirty and consists mostly of persons involved with universities in the Boston area. Membership in the previous chapter included such noted scholars as Arthur Schlesinger Jr. and Henry Rosovsky.

Past J.A.C.L. Programs

1. The Kyoto Artisan's House: a visit to the Children's Museum of Boston with Karen Anne Zien, curator of the East Asian Exhibits. The Kyoto Artisan's house is a gift to the city of Boston as part of the Kyoto-Boston Sister Cities program.
2. Redress: a presentation providing a sober perspective of the controversies concerning the relocation of Japanese-Americans during WW II.
3. O shogatsu: New Years celebration co-sponsored with the Japanese-Americans of New England and the Nisei Group.
4. Unfolding Beauty: a look at the Japanese screens from the storerooms of the Museum of Fine Arts.
5. Major Contributions of the East Coast Issei in the Establishment of Japan-America Trade: presentation of a case study by Prof. Scott Miyakawa concerning Ryoichiro Arai, a founder of the Japan-America silk trade.