



WASHINGTON OFFICE

JAPANESE AMERICAN CITIZENS LEAGUE

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NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS, JACL
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February 27, 1979

Michael S. Adachi
[Redacted]

Dear Michael,

It was a pleasure to come to Boston, to meet with you and discuss the feasibility of starting a JACL chapter in New England.

I hope your questions were answered, and if you have any other thoughts on the matter, please do not hesitate to call or contact the Washington office.

Expecting to see you in the near future at the meetings of the JACL chapter.

Best Regards.....

Sincerely,

Ronald K. Ikejiri
Washington Representative

RKI/akc

*Thank you
for taking us
around!*

JAPANESE AMERICAN CITIZENS LEAGUE

EASTERN DISTRICT COUNCIL

NEW YORK

PHILADELPHIA

SEABROOK

WASHINGTON, D. C.

February 5, 1979

Dear Friends:

Japanese Americans (JA's) in every geographical area of the United States should have the opportunity of belonging to an organization; whether its purpose be social, political, or cultural for their common interest. In response to an increasing number of JA's in the New England area, an exploratory meeting concerning the formation of a Greater Boston JACL chapter will be held on Sunday, February 25 at 2:15 PM at the Friends Meeting House, 5 Longfellow Park, Cambridge, MA. (See enclosed map.) Today the JACL is recognized as being the spokesman for the JA's by the broad spectrum of our society and being part of the organization tends to give credibility and strength in solving the many challenges facing Japanese Americans today. The challenges can be local or national in scope.

JACL can serve the JA community through strong national advocacy in federal and state levels through research, planning and program development. It can provide cohesive strength to mobilize local chapters into progressive force for positive social change. It will encourage participation by Japanese Americans and assist them in the development of projects which are vital to them: including workshops on ethnicity, identity and contemporary educational opportunities, planning for discussion groups, conferences and social activities.

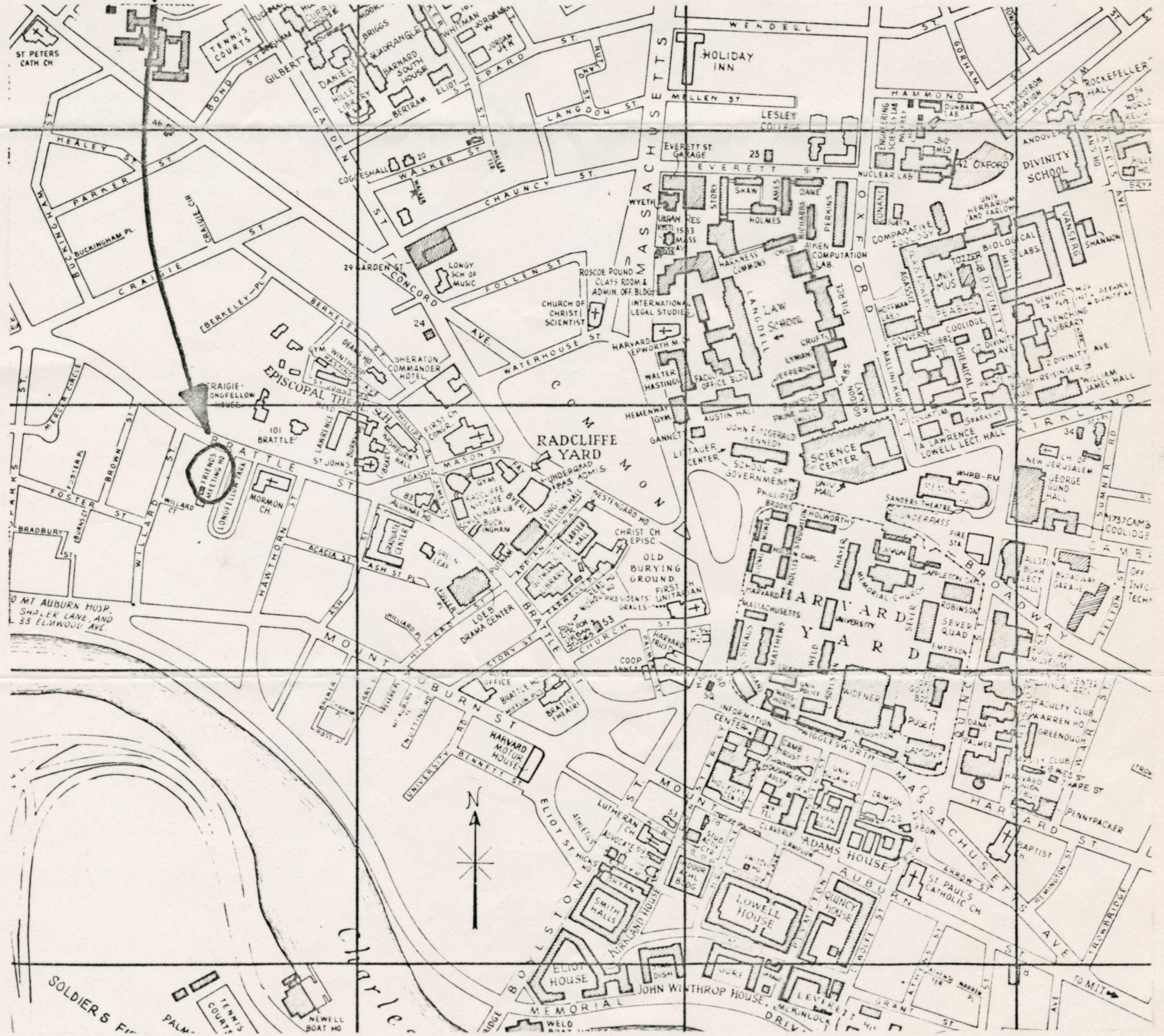
Some of the benefits are: (1) the National Travel Program offering low-cost flights to Japan, (2) economical Group Health Insurance, (3) low interest loans from the JACL Credit Unions, (4) JACL sponsored scholarship and Fellowship programs, and (5) a subscription to the Pacific Citizen bringing weekly current information on what is happening in JA communities across the nation.

Ron Ikejiri, the National JACL representative in Washington D.C., will be speaking at the meeting to provide information on JACL and answer any questions dealing with it. If you are interested in attending the meeting, please RSVP: Glenn Fukushima [redacted], Alex Kimura [redacted], Michael Adachi [redacted], or Laurel Kimura [redacted]. Also, please call if you are interested but cannot attend.

Please tell or bring any of your friends who might have been overlooked in the mailing of this letter.

LOCATION OF JACL MEETING
Cambridge Friends Meeting House
5 Longfellow Park
Cambridge, MA

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 25 @ 2:00 PM



BOSTON JA CL QUESTIONNAIRE

1. NAME:

2. CURRENT ADDRESS:

PHONE NUMBER: ()

3. PERMANENT ADDRESS:

PHONE NUMBER: ()

4. OCCUPATION:


5. HOW LONG HAVE YOU LIVED IN NEW ENGLAND?

IF YOU ARE NOT PERMANENTLY SETTLED HERE, HOW MUCH LONGER DO YOU PLAN TO STAY?

6. HAVE YOU EVER BEEN A MEMBER OF JA CL?

OF OTHER JAPANESE AMERICAN ORGANIZATIONS?

IF SO, PLEASE INDICATE WHEN, WHERE, AND WHAT ACTIVITIES YOU WERE ENGAGED IN:

7. IN WHICH OF THE  ACTIVITIES WOULD YOU BE MOST INTERESTED IN PARTICIPATING?

- (a) FUND-RAISING:
- (b) CULTURAL:
- (c) POLITICAL:
- (d) SOCIAL:
- (e) EDUCATIONAL:
- (f) OTHER:

8. PLEASE LIST NAMES AND ADDRESSES OF OTHER INDIVIDUALS WHO MAY BE INTERESTED IN RECEIVING INFORMATION ABOUT THE BOSTON JA CL CHAPTER:

Redress issue reactivates JACL chapter after 25 years

(The New England JACL was reactivated earlier this year when a Nikkei group of students and residents gathered at Cambridge Feb. 25 to hear about current JACL programs from Washington Representative Ron Ikejiri. The chapter was formed in 1948 and lasted through 1952—paralleling the JACL push for evacuation claims and naturalization for Issei.—Ed.)

Boston, Mass.

New England JACL's initial efforts to stimulate local public interest in the national redress campaign has won support of a widely-known radio talk show host and television newscaster in this area.

David Sakura, Ph.D., JACL co-chair for Asian Pacific American Heritage Week, was interviewed May 19 by Westinghouse Channel 7 "Black News" anchorman Lavell Dyatt following his earlier participation in the opening ceremonies for APAHW held at the John F. Kennedy Federal Building in Government Center, Boston.

The newscast began with close-ups of enlarged prints of a newspaper cartoon, Executive Order 9066 and an intern-

ment camp, taken from the New England JACL photographic essay on the World War II removal and incarceration of Japanese Americans. Dyatt then engaged Dr. Sakura, a native of Seattle, in a conversation on his experiences as a six-year-old interned at Puyallup before being sent to Minidoka, Idaho, as well as on the present-day implications of the JACL Redress Campaign.

The JACL photographic essay for Heritage Week was prepared and mounted by Dr. Sakura and Tetsuo Takayana-gi, architect with the Cambridge firm of Stubbins Hugh and Associates, Inc., for the Multi-Ethnic Exhibit jointly developed by:

Indonesian Counseling Program, the Boston Chinese American Community, Asian American Artists Association, and New England Chapter JACL.

On May 26, Dr. Sakura was joined by Reyko Shiraishi, Ed.D., for a 40-minute segment of the two-hour Sunday night Lavell Dyatt Show on WGB-AM 1030. A guidance counselor at the Cambridge Pilot (alternative) School, Shiraishi shared some of her earlier experiences in being removed from her So. California home to the Santa Anita Race Track with her family, then to Rohwer, Ark.

A primarily sympathetic radio audience response from callers reflecting a diverse background of experiences in minority issues was received during the broadcast.

Dr. Sakura, a research biologist at McLean Hospital, was called to appear on PBS Channel 2 as guest on the "Say, Brother" show June 16.

Asian/Pacific American Heritage Week, May 5-11, was coordinated by the Boston Federal Executive Board under the direction of Marian

Huang and Linda Yuu Connor of the Office for Civil Rights. Co-sponsors were:

Massachusetts Council on the Arts and the Humanities, the Mayor's Office for Cultural Affairs, the Chinese American Civic Association, and New England JACL.

Alex Kimura, co-chair, compiled selected facts on Japanese American history for the Asian and Pacific American Profile Information distributed at the opening ceremonies. Kei Kaneda, JACL Publicity Chair for APAHW, also served as a representative on the Planning Committee. Michael S. Adachi, chapter interim Program Chair, was responsible for solicitation of food donations for the reception.

As for membership, Mrs. Herbert Nishino, New England JACL, P.O. Box 548, Cambridge, Ma 02138 should be asked. The paperback editions of Weglyn's "Years of Infamy" (\$5.95) are also available at the same address. Proceeds from the book sale go toward the chapter redress education project. #

DETROIT SANSEI

Makes headway with Hitachi

Detroit

A profile of Lloyd M. Miyao, an American Sansei from the eastern United States, shows a young man who came home from the Vietnam war 11 years ago and made good.

The son of Walter and Elyse Miyao, longtime De-

troit JACLers, was given an award for his promotion by Hitachi Ltd. of Japan in Tokyo last month. He was appointed the assistant regional sales manager of power systems sales and service division for the western district of the United States.

Living with his uncle upon return from Vietnam in 1968, Lloyd, then 23, chanced upon a progressive Japanese company in San Francisco and applied for a position. He was hired and within the year was sent to International Language School in Japan and for industrial basic training at Hitachi Industries. He was assigned by the company to survey the hydroelectric implementation needs in the United States. Within one year of surveying, he was able to secure a contract with the United States Reclamation Service for installation of hydroelectric generators at Grand Coulee Dam. The job was worth several millions and Lloyd was given an award for his effort.

SEKO

Continued from Page 5

ing about contemporaries who were married about the same time. A third of those marriages were terminated by divorce. We are probably the last of a generation whose elders stigmatized any separation until "death do us part". It must be purely coincidental, but in every instance we could recall, the wives involved in divorces were those who had attained the status of "ladies of leisure".

So please, don't call me that. #

Milwaukee names scholarship in honor of evacuee worker

Milwaukee, Wis.

Four scholarships were presented to area high school seniors by the Milwaukee JACL and JAYS at the Lime House Restaurant here last month (May 5).

One was newly named in honor of Elizabeth Campbell, longtime director of International Institute, who founded a temporary home for evacuees relocating here from the World War II camps. She was also the originator of the now successful Holiday Folk Fair 32 years ago.

Two JACL awards, in her name, were presented to: Karen Nakamoto of Brookfield East High, who will enter

UW-Milwaukee to major in business; and to Ruri Teramura of Brookfield East High, who will continue at UW-Madison to major in zoology.

The two JAY Award winners were:

Cheryl Miyazaki, Wauwatosa East High; and Russell Mukai, Marshall High.

The Rev. Stevenson Leong of the Wauwatosa First Congregational Church was guest speaker on "Opportunity, Life's Challenge". Jim Miyazaki was emcee.

CHICAGO JACL Federal Credit Union

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East Valley to host m meet July 22

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So that America lives up to its promises

The following is a JACL rebuttal to Sen. S. I. Hayakawa's reply to the open letter which appeared in the Washington Post. The JACL rebuttal was widely disseminated May 18. The PC is carrying the full text.—Ed.

Senator S. I. Hayakawa, in a recent article on the efforts of Japanese Americans to seek redress for their eviction and incarceration during World War II, and in response to a Washington Post advertisement criticizing him for his views, has again demonstrated his insensitivity to Japanese Americans and his lack of understanding of the redress issue. During a press conference called by a community-based organization from Seattle calling itself "Days of Remembrance", to announce the Washington Post ad—the response from Hayakawa's office (in Los Angeles) was "after all, the Japanese did bomb Pearl Harbor".

American citizens of Japanese ancestry had absolutely nothing to do with the bombing of Pearl Harbor, it has been pointed out time and again during the redress campaign which is spearheaded by the Japanese American Citizens League (JACL), National Committee for Redress. Such insensitivity on the part of Hayakawa and his staff illustrates their

total lack of understanding of the issue.

We insist that the issue is not a question of money, but a question of violability and legitimacy of the Constitution and the Bill of Rights. Since all the essential guarantees providing for the protection of individual rights were suspended when all persons of Japanese ancestry were evicted from the west coast and incarcerated without any form of due process, we are questioning the right of the government to abrogate, under any condition, the guarantees of the Constitution.

In other words, are the guarantees of the individual enumerated in the Constitution and Bill of Rights absolute for all people at all times in this country, or are they conditional guarantees which can be suspended at any time according to a given situation or the whims of those in power?

By citing hysteria and panic on the west coast after the bombing of Pearl Harbor as the rationale for the action of the government against Japanese Americans, Senator Hayakawa completely misses the point of the issue and ignores the facts of which he is well aware. In a published article in 1976, Hayakawa stated the fact that we did not ex-

perience any mob action or violence after the bombing of Pearl Harbor was proof of our acceptance in the United States. Yet two years later, getting wind of the redress effort, he stated that the "Evacuation" was "perfectly understandable" because we were threatened by angry mobs that were intent on violence against Japanese Americans.

Our eviction and incarceration, the senator continues to insist, was for our own protection. But the American system of jurisprudence does not function in such a manner that the intended victim is imprisoned while the perpetrator is allowed to go free. And if the concentration camps in which we were detained were indeed for our own protection, why were we held in barbed wire compounds with armed guards who were instructed to shoot any person attempting to leave without permission, and why were the spotlights directed inside the camps?

And why indeed were only persons of Japanese ancestry evicted and incarcerated en masse? In answer to this, Hayakawa states there was no way to determine the loyalty of Japanese Americans to the United States. This comment, of course, is the precise argument used in 1942, the racial implications of which are appalling, coming from one who by his physical identity seems to speak for Japanese Americans in 1979. He implies he carries the mantle for Japanese Americans, but he's a pretender to the throne.

Senator Hayakawa is well aware that investigative agencies of the government, including the FBI, had determined prior to December, 1941, that Japanese Americans were loyal citizens who maintained an unequivocal allegiance to the U.S., and that any plans to evict persons of Japanese ancestry from the west coast were unwarranted and yet, the senator continues to use the arguments that were used against us in 1942.

But, of course, Hayakawa did not experience what we suffered then. He did not have to forfeit his property and belongings, he did not have to spend three and one-half years on some desolate wasteland of America behind barbed wire. He was a Canadian citizen at the time, secure and comfortable as a college instructor in Illinois. And he has never been a part of the Japanese American

community.

Thus, his insensitivity is illustrated by his comment that ultimately the camp experience was good for Japanese Americans because it helped disperse us from the west coast ghettos and allowed us to enter many fine educational institutions. The analogy is like saying that ultimately slavery was good for the blacks.

The facts belie Hayakawa's views. The vast majority of Japanese Americans were interned and did not disperse to the Midwest and East, and those who did mainly ended up in the ghettos in the Midwest and the East with far less than they had left on the west coast. And those who entered colleges, for the most part, did not enter the finer universities. According to some of the individuals who were involved in placement of Nisei in the various colleges, they attempted to find any college, accredited or not, to place these young men and women just so they wouldn't have to remain in the camps. Many of these people had been at the finer universities in the west, such as USC, UCLA, Stanford, Berkeley, Univ. of Washington. For many, college education was cut short, careers ended and for all of us, lives disrupted. The camps, despite our present status in this society, did not serve to benefit us.

If we achieved a degree of success today, it is because we have been able to overcome the experiences of the past. But our achievements today have nothing to do at all with the question of rectifying a past injustice. Success in our career and profession does not in any way redress a past wrong. To say so, as Hayakawa does, is, in his own words, "ridiculous and absurd".

Efforts of the JACL and the Japanese American community to seek redress for the experience of 1942, is not as Hayakawa states, as "profitable hustle" of minorities. It is manifested from our concern with the future to help insure no group of people ever experiences what we did in 1942, and our sense of duty in strengthening the foundations of American democracy as the best hope of mankind. It is predicated on our belief that America lives up to its promises.

—JOHN TATEISHI,
Chairperson
National JACL
Redress Committee

JACL leadership

Editor:

For years I have waited for our past national presidents to come front-and-center and give us sound advice on how to "right the ship" that started to list to and fro with the advent of the wonderful, vociferous younger JACLers joining our movement for better or worse.

Today, I read Dr. Roy Nishikawa's focus on JACL problems, and he is the only one for real in the PC coverage.

While we have lost leaders like Saburo Kido, Masao Satow and George Inagaki, we are thankful for leaders who have come up to take their places. But we must find a way to hurry back those former leaders who now lead other service groups to also help the JACL.

And we must find a way to keep the young JACL leaders at the helm. We hope the deep pride of JACL and the Nikkei stir in them, too. Unity is of prime concern. Someone once asked: "Does it make a difference to God whether I attend church, become a member? Does it make a difference whether I support the Red Cross?" He was told, "Yes, if you lived where a flash flood swept away your home, it would."

In today's world we are interdependent. To choose not to participate is like not pulling your oar in a boat crew race. The boat may reach its goal. But for each member the rhythm of unified effort, the thrill of concerted purpose will be missing.

MACK YAMAGUCHI
Pasadena JACL

... in Southland

gasoline station dealers' weekend shutdown for May 17-20 was responsible partly for postponing the JACL board meeting to the first weekend in June ... The Days of Remembrance pilgrimage from Los Angeles to Pomona via Santa Anita (75 mile round trip) for next month was postponed. If the Army can come up with the trucks, a la 1942, and transport the 1979 pilgrims—it'll be a teach-in of the most realistic dimensions. But there's that return trip on your own gas to worry about ... The Tule Lake Pilgrimage this weekend (May 26-28) from San Francisco-Sacramento is still "on"—

In Texas they say: "Give a guy enough rope and he'll hang himself with it." As a practitioner of palaver, Senator Hayakawa is wallowing in his own words helplessly. The recent suggestion by...

35 YEARS AGO

MAY 27, 1944

May 19—L.A. county social workers urge early return of Nisei to coast.

May 19—First anti-alien land escheat case filed in Salinas, Ca., area, involves Yeizo-Setsuko Ikeda conspiring with a Nisei

IN THE PACIFIC CITIZEN
have right to bar resettlement of evacuees.

May 22—Artist Henry Fuku-hara publishes in folio form 50 sketches of Evacuation camp life.

May 25—Tule Lake military police fatally shoots segregationist James S. Okamoto, 30, an Amer-

David, Happy Return
from Happy Trips

The meeting will be as scheduled
Thursday 5:30 p.m. at Embers

Hastily,
Ken