

JAPANESE AMERICAN CITIZENS LEAGUE
NEW ENGLAND CHAPTER



P.O. BOX 548 CAMBRIDGE, MA. 02138

AUGUST 9, 1981

PICNIC

SEPTEMBER 25, 1981

REDRESS CAMPAIGN STATUS

July 28, 1981

Dear Members and Friends,

We would like to bring you up-to-date on the activities of the New England JACL during the past year, and to inform you of some plans for the 1981-82 program year.

This month we are completing our first year of "official" existence. In July 1980, the Executive Board began meeting regularly on the second Tuesday of each month. In October we presented a draft constitution to the membership, which was formally accepted in November, and our Chapter was thereafter officially recognized by National JACL; (as Scott Miyakawa and others have pointed out, we are actually in our second lifetime - there was a New England JACL in the 1940's). The Executive Board has held a business meeting in 12 out of the last 13 months. In addition, we have sponsored or cosponsored a number of other activities, which you can see on the attached summary of 1980-81 programs. Also enclosed are copies of the minutes of a recent business meeting. If you want minutes from other meetings, please write.

The central focus of NEJACL activities for the past year has been on the redress campaign, including TV and radio appearances, correspondence, political campaigning, and informational work. Our chapter has received commendation from the National office and from Washington DC for our strong efforts on behalf of redress. Since the appointment of the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians (CWRIC) we have maintained liason with their Washington office. There is a good chance we will be asked to assist the Commission's deliberations in the Fall; we will keep you fully informed of this.

We are now starting to plan for next Fall. Our foremost goal, now that a solid and successful first year is under our belts, is to involve more people in the ongoing activities of the organization. We would therefore like to ask you to do two things. First, mark down the date of September 25 (Friday night) on your calendar - we will have a meeting on that date which will bring everyone up-to-date on the redress campaign, and will feature a discussion with Ron Ikejiri, the JACL Washington Representative, concerning kinds of testimony which has been given, and likely future directions for the Commission. The meeting will be at the Cambridge Friends Meetinghouse, 5 Longfellow Park, Cambridge (near Harvard Square), from 8:00 to 10:00.

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Second, we would like to start several committees which will initiate activities of interest to all members. We have identified two new committees: a Committee on Cultural Programs to plan two or three events/activities of a cultural nature during the year, and a Committee on Racism which will become the liason between NEJACL and other Asian American groups in the Boston area, including groups in Chinatown. Additionally we would like to add more members to the existing Redress Committee. If you would be willing to work on one of these committees, please send back the enclosed form, or if you would like to do something else next year, tell us that too.

We don't like to talk about money, but since there aren't too many of us in New England, we all have to cooperate, or else some of us get caught holding the bag. Therefore, we are enclosing another form with this letter showing the current status of your dues. If you are overdue, please pay; or, if you haven't actually joined NEJACL, we hope you will.

We hope you have a wonderful summer, and we look forward to seeing you in September.

New England JACL
Executive Board: David Sakura
May Takayanagi
Mel Kawakami
Gary Glenn

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Just as we were going to mail this, some of our members and friends decided to have a very informal PICNIC on Sunday August 9, from about 2:00 PM until dark. The site will be by the Charles River, near the Christian Herter Center for the Performing Arts, on Soldier's Field Rd., about a mile or so from the Harvard Business School/Harvard stadium area (see map). Bring whatever food you like; no RSVP is necessary, but if you'd like to, call David Sakura at 643-8272.

