



## *New England Chapter Japanese American Citizens League*

P.O. Box 592 • Lincoln, MA 01773

### **JACL BULLETIN    April 2009**

#### **Support needed for Veterans Commemorative Stamp**

The Postal Service has announced it will review letters of support for the Japanese American (Nisei) World War II Veterans Commemorative Stamp at its next meeting on April 23-24. Previously, the Postal Service said the proposal would not be looked at until the July meeting. Although it would not be officially considered at the April meeting, the Postal Service says they could review recent letters of support for the stamp. JACL is taking part in a national letter writing campaign to sway the Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee to change its stance (based on an internal guideline) that prohibits stamps honoring sub-branches, units or divisions of the military. The Nisei stamp does not do this, it honors all Japanese Americans who fought in World War II. Although we will send a letter as the New England chapter, personal letters are best. A sample letter can be found on the campaign's web site: [www.niseistamp.org](http://www.niseistamp.org). Since this is the post office, letters must be sent, not emailed, to:

Jean Picker Firstenberg, Chairperson  
Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee  
C/o Stamp Development  
U.S. Postal Service  
17345 North Lynn Street, Suite 5013  
Arlington, VA 22209-6432

#### **Save June 20 for *Bento and Baseball***

We'll be hosting our second annual *Bento and Baseball* event this year on Saturday, June 20. This year we'll be going to an evening game of the Lowell Spinners. We'll meet beforehand for a pot luck Bento supper on the Middlesex Community College campus, a short drive from the Lelacheur Park where the game is held. We've purchased a block of tickets and will be sending you more information soon. Questions: Email Steve Nishino at [nishino@nejacl.org](mailto:nishino@nejacl.org).

#### **ASPIRE to hold first Mother's Day Brunch, May 9th**

ASPIRE will hold its first Annual Mother's Day Brunch fundraiser on Saturday, May 9<sup>th</sup> at the Hyatt Regency Cambridge Hotel from 11 am to 2 p m. This is a special event for families to celebrate their mothers and will be emceed by Frances Rivera, of Channel 7 News. There will be a live and silent auction as well as a raffle. For information and reservations, email [info@girlsaspire.org](mailto:info@girlsaspire.org). ASPIRE (Asian Sisters Participating in Reaching Excellence) is a Boston organization that works to empower Asian American girls and women of high school and college age and young professionals with career development and leadership skills.

#### **2009 JACL Youth Conference set for June 26-28**

The JACL National Youth Conference will be held at Macalester College in St. Paul, Minnesota with the theme "IMPACT! Your Community – Your Generation – Your JACL." The conference is expected to be the best ever with an inspiring array of workshops, speakers and events that will give participants the tools needed to for leadership in any capacity and to gain critical knowledge of a diverse range of issues. Workshops will range from affirming Asian American identity and getting involved at college to sushi making and taiko drumming. This will also be an

outstanding opportunity to network with other Asian American/Pacific Islander high school and college students from all over the United States. This will be the last official JAACL National Youth Conference and participants will be part of an important historic event. The conference is open to youth, between 14 and 25 years of age. For more information and registration, go to: [www.jacl.org/youth/conference-youth.html](http://www.jacl.org/youth/conference-youth.html).

### **APA Month to be celebrated at State House**

Asian Pacific American Heritage Month will be celebrated at the State House in Boston on Friday, May 1 from 12:30 am to 2 pm. Sponsored by the Massachusetts Asian American Commission and the Asian Community Development Corporation, this year's theme is "What does the economic stimulus package mean for the APA communities: challenges, opportunities and advocacy." This event is free and open to the public. If you have any questions, contact Alex Zhang (617) 482-2380, ext. 208 or email [alex@asiancdc.org](mailto:alex@asiancdc.org).