

**HERE'S WHY!!**

HISTORY AND ACTIVITIES  
OF  
THE JAPANESE AMERICAN  
ASSOCIATION OF NEW YORK

*The Japanese American Association of New York, Inc.*

125 WEST 72ND STREET • NEW YORK 23, N. Y.



## CONTENTS

1. Preface
2. Origin of The Association
3. Its purpose
4. Its task
5. Its support
6. Constitution and By-Laws
7. Japanese Section

## What is Nikkeijin Kai?

### What does it do?

#### What can the Nikkeijin Kai do for the Nisei?

These are some of the questions answered in this brochure. We hope that this will review for some of you the many varied activities of our organization and for others, introduce and interest you in becoming members and participating in our program.

### What is Nikkeijin Kai?

*Nikkeijin Kai* is incorporated under the name of THE JAPANESE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF NEW YORK, INC., and is the largest, all inclusive Japanese American organization of this city. It is composed of persons of Japanese ancestry regardless of citizenship or place of birth. It aims to meet the various welfare needs of our community. There are two basic purposes: 1) to organize all Japanese Americans in greater New York for social welfare and mutual aid, and 2) to cooperate with the larger American community. The realization of these two objectives will inevitably result in the factual demonstration that we are worthy residents of America, and pave the way for better understanding between America and Japan. From this we come to the conclusion that all of us, be he Issei, Nisei or Sansei, should join our organization.

### What does it do?

Our community wide organization was first formed after World War II in the fall of 1945 under the name of the New

York American Committee for Japan Relief, and in 1946 it was incorporated under the laws of New York State. This was soon after L. A. R. A. (Licensed Agency for Relief in Asia) was organized. From 1946 to 1951, its program of activities consisted primarily of sending food and clothing to Japan. This aid was made possible through finances raised by cash campaigns and benefit shows. In 1950, because local welfare needs in the New York area became progressively greater, the emphasis of the organization changed from Japan relief to community welfare. The group reorganized and adopted the name of The Japanese American Committee of New York, Inc. In 1952, the Japanese American Welfare Society, Inc. (Kyosai Kai) of this city and the Japanese American Committee of New York, Inc. were consolidated into one organization and adopted the name of the latter. In 1953, it adopted the name of THE JAPANESE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF NEW YORK, INC. on November 12, 1953.

The Constitution was revised reflecting broader coverage of activities. During the past years, as the scope and program were enlarged, the following committees sponsored programs to meet the various requirements. These Committees are: 1. Welfare; 2. Social; 3. Public Relations; 4. Cultural; 5. Trade; 6. Nisei; 7. Finance; and 8. Membership. Different types of programs were conducted by respective committees: Welfare activities such as visitations to hospitals, assistance and advice to those who need help; Social activities such as community wide picnics in spring and fall, boat rides in summer, and entertainment

shows in winter; Public Relations activities such as the publication of booklets to aid Issei in their application for American citizenship and the translation of Social Security pamphlets; Cultural activities such as lectures and demonstrations on various phases of Japanese culture; Trade committee activities such as the promotion of business affairs among Japanese Americans; and Nisei committee activities such as Issei Nisei get-together parties for closer relations.

What can the Nikkeijin Kai do for the Nisei?

All of the activities of the *Nikkeijin Kai* stress the distinguishing characteristic of this organization—that it is a community organization devoted to welfare work for Japanese and to the promotion of the best in human ideals. Whether we are Issei, Nisei or Sansei, we have been given a valuable Japanese heritage. Through its various facets, we can not only interpret them to our fellow Americans but we can also add to the enrichment of America.

The *Nikkeijin Kai* needs the support, interest and service of all persons of Japanese ancestry residing in New York. The elder members of our organization desire to utilize their rich experiences to groom the Nisei to fulfill these important, much needed services and the Nisei in turn want to be able to assume these responsibilities in the near future.

The Constitution of THE JAPANESE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF NEW YORK is incuded for your reference. Won't you give us your full support and take part in our program of building a better community?

## CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

### THE JAPANESE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF NEW YORK, INC.

#### CONSTITUTION

##### Article I. NAME

The name of this organization shall be "THE JAPANESE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF NEW YORK, INC."

##### Article II. HEADQUARTERS

The headquarters of this organization shall be the City of New York, N. Y.

##### Article III. PURPOSES

This organization shall be formed: To cooperate with the American community on various meritorious activities; and to promote welfare, friendly relations and mutual aid of Japanese Americans residing in New York and its vicinity.

##### Article IV.

#### MEMBERSHIP ORGANIZATION

This is a membership organization to which any Japanese American who subscribes to the above stated purposes and pays the fixed annual membership dues may become a member.

##### Article V. OFFICERS

The officers of the organization shall be the President, three (3) Vice-Presidents, the Executive Secretary, the Treasurer, the Assistant Treasurer, three (3) Auditors and Chairmen of all standing committees.

##### Article VI. DUTIES OF OFFICERS

President: The President shall act as the chief executive of the organization and shall preside at the meetings of the General Membership, Officers, and Board of Directors.

Vice-Presidents: The three (3) Vice-Presidents shall function under the direction of the president, shall aid and assist him in the discharge of his duties, and shall preside in the absence of the president.

Executive Secretary: The Executive Secretary shall transact the affairs of the organization in accordance with resolutions of the Officers, and of the Board of Directors. He shall also have the care and custody of the Seal of the Organization.

Treasurer: The Treasurer shall have the custody of the funds of the organization and shall keep a full and accurate account of receipts and disbursements.

Assistant Treasurer: The Assistant Treasurer shall aid the treasurer in his duties, and in the absence of the treasurer, shall be the Acting Treasurer.

Auditors: The three (3) Auditors shall be charged with the duty of auditing all books and accounts of the organization.

Chairmen of the Committees: The Chairmen of the standing committees shall be responsible for the affairs of their respective committees.

#### Article VII. ADVISORS

Advisors shall be nominated by the President, and shall be appointed upon the approval by either the Board of Directors or the General Membership meeting.

#### Article VIII. BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Board of Directors, composed of the officers, advisors and others who are specifically elected as Directors, shall participate in the functioning of the affairs of the organization. There shall be seventy-one (71) members in the Board of Directors.

One fourth ( $\frac{1}{4}$ ) of the total number of the members of the Board of Directors shall constitute a quorum necessary to conduct the business of the Board of Directors.

#### Article IX. ELECTIONS

The election of Officers and Directors shall take place at the annual General Membership meeting of the organization. All elected Officers and Directors shall serve for a term of one (1) year. No Officer shall serve more than two (2) consecutive terms in the same Office.

The Board of Directors shall appoint members to all vacancies which may occur.

#### Article X. MEETINGS

The annual General Membership meeting shall take place in the City of New York, State of New York, in the month of August of each year hereinafter ensuing upon ten (10) days' notice in writing to all members. An extra-ordinary General Membership Meeting may be called by the Board of Directors or by the written request of at least thirty (30) members.

The meetings of the Officers shall be called by the president, upon the request of at least two Officers.

The meetings of the Board of Directors shall be called by the president upon the request of the majority of the Officers, or upon the request of at least ten (10) Directors.

#### Article XI. STANDING COMMITTEES

There shall be the following standing committees:

Welfare, Social, Public Relations, Culture, Trade, Nisei, Finance, Membership and Literature. The functions of the standing committees shall be as provided in the By-Laws.

#### Article XII. AMENDMENT

The Constitution of this organization shall be subject to amendment at the annual General Membership meeting. The By-Laws shall be subject to amendment by the affirmative vote of at least two-thirds ( $\frac{2}{3}$ ) of the members of the Board of Directors present at its meeting.

### BY - LAWS

#### MEMBERSHIP

1. All members shall be entitled to hold elective offices of this organization and to vote.

2. All members shall be entitled to make any proposal or request to the organization which are consistent with the purposes of the organization.

3. Any member of this organization who shall fail to pay his membership dues shall forfeit his membership.

4. Any spouse of a Japanese American, without regard to racial extraction, may be considered for membership in the Association.

5. Admissions, withdrawals, or expulsions of any members shall require the approval or consent of the Board of Directors.

#### MEMBERSHIP DUES

6. The annual membership dues shall be ten dollars (\$10.00), payable in advance and applicable for one year from the date of payment.

## STANDING COMMITTEES

7. The Welfare Committee shall be responsible for all matters pertaining to the relief, rehabilitation and general assistance of the indigent and impoverished persons of Japanese ancestry residing in New York City and its immediate areas.

8. The Social Committee shall be responsible for all matters relating to entertainments and socials of this organization.

9. The Public Relations Committee shall serve as the liaison agent for this organization with the American community.

10. The Culture Committee shall be responsible to propagate culture among the community's Japanese Americans.

11. The Trade Committee shall be responsible for the promotion of economic well-being of the community's Japanese Americans.

12. The Nisei Committee shall be responsible for all matters pertaining to the local nisei population.

13. The Finance Committee shall be responsible for all financial matters.

14. The Membership Committee shall be responsible for matters relating to admission, withdrawal, and expulsion of members and for the collection of dues.

15. The Literature Committee shall publish the bulletins, compile the history of the Association, and maintain the library and literary projects.

16. The members of the respective committees shall be appointed by the Board of Directors, upon the recommendations of the chairmen of such respective committees.

17. The Board of Directors may provide for other committees as it may deem desirable.

## ELECTIONS

18. All Officers and Directors shall be elected by secret ballot by those members present at the annual General Membership meeting.

19. Elections shall be decided by a majority of those present entitled to vote.

## QUORUM and VOTING

20. The quorum necessary to conduct business at a General Membership meeting shall be twenty-one (21) members.

21. The quorum necessary to conduct business at the meetings of officers and Committees shall be one-half ( $\frac{1}{2}$ ) of the membership of the respective group.

22. The majority vote of those present at all meetings shall be binding, unless otherwise provided.

## PROXIES

23. Voting by proxy shall not be permitted at any meeting.

## BUSINESS SECRETARY

24. The Business Secretary shall attend to the business affairs of this organization as directed by the president, executive secretary and other officers. He shall administer the general office work and record the minutes of the meeting.

25. The Assistant Business Secretary shall aid the Business Secretary in his duties; and in the absence of the Business Secretary, he shall be the Acting Business Secretary.

26. The appointment and discharge of the Business Secretary shall not be members of the Secretary shall be determined by the Board of Directors.

27. The Business Secretary and the Assistant Business Secretary shall not be members of the Board of Directors.

28. The Business Secretary and the Assistant Business Secretary shall be paid for their services.

## ERRATA

26. The appointment and discharge of the Business Secretary and the Assistant Business Secretary shall be determined by the Board of Directors.

30. Income from the J. A. Endowment Fund may be applied toward payment of current operating expenses of the Association. Upon dissolution of the Association, the principal of the Fund shall be divided into three (3) parts and be distributed, after paying all liabilities, as follows:

One (1) part to the American Red Cross, and two (2) parts to such civic organizations that are composed of Japanese American origin, in such amounts that the Board of Directors see fit at complete discretion.

## PICTORIAL BULLETINS

Presenting some of the scenes of activities at the various events held by Nikkeijin Kai for young and old in our communities.





## DECORATION DAY SERVICES

PHOTOGRAPHS BY SHIDO YAMADA



紐育日系人會要覽

紐育日系人會

目

次

- 一、 はしがき
- 二、 日系人会の沿革
- 三、 日系人会のあり方
- 四、 日系人会の仕事
- 五、 何故日系人各位の御支援が必要か
- 六、 会則及び細則
- 七、 英文要覧

## 一、はしがき

この小冊子の目的は、ニューヨークおよびその附近に在住する日系人各位に、日系人会の「ありかた」とその運営について、十分認識していただき、まだ会員でない方々に奮つて入会していただきたい念願に他なりません。

ここで、日系人というのは国籍の如何を問わず、大和民族の流れを汲むものの総称であります。従つて、日米通商条約に基づき、当地方に駐在する公館、銀行、商社等の人々も、すべて含まれております。この意味において、当地方に在住する大和民族全体のウエルフェアに関する総合団体は、結局紐育日系人会であるということになります。

## 二、日系人会の沿革

祖国の戦災難民救助はわれわれの義務である、と痛感し、終戦直後より五ヶ年にわたり「ララ物資のミルクは紐育日系人会より」を標語として、二百九十五トンの粉末ミルクおよび粉末鶏卵（当時の特価で約十六万ドル）を祖国へ送つたのは、財団法人日本救援紐育委員会でありました。その後、同委員会は祖国復興の好転と、当地方日系人間の互助和合の必要性などを痛感し、一九四九年八月にこれが改組されて紐育日系人会となつたものであります。さらにその後、一九五二年一月、旧紐育共済会と合同し、また一九五七年十月二十五日、第二大戦以来その資産が凍結され、活動が停止されていた旧日本人会と合併し、一層強力な総合団体となつたものであります。

### 三、日系人会のありかた

本会は、ニューヨークおよびその附近に在住する日系人が中枢となつて、最もデモクラチックな運営をする純然たる自治的奉仕団体であつて、その目的とするところは、当地方在住日系人が一団となり、各々の福祉を増進し親睦互助を計り、かつ米人社会と協調するというのでありますが、会のありかたは、究極において、われわれ日系人は、米国において最も優秀なる住民であり、また市民であることを如実に示し、ひいては日米親善にも貢献する、ということになるのであります。

本会は社会奉仕団として、米国政府、ニューヨーク州およびニューヨーク市などより公認されております。

れる商社員も、民族的意識を自覚して、小異を捨てて大に同じに就き、同一民族の共存共栄の実を挙げるべく、日系人のこの地における総合的団体である本会を支持し、その内容を一層充実して、立派な実績をあげるよう、全面的に御協力あらんことを願うものであります。

### 四、日系人会の仕事

本会には共済、社会、渉外、文化、商務、二世、財務、会員及び文書の九部門が設けられ、各部は委員制として、着々本会の使命達成に努力しております。なにかんづく、本会はその性質にかんがみ、共済互助の仕事に最も重点を置いていることは申すまでもありません。以下各部の活動について列記します。

す。当地方在住の日系人のウエルフェア問題に関しては、それら当局と直接交渉があります。また、本会は戦前の日本人会とはその機構を異にしておりますが日本国総領事館とは絶えず密接なる連絡をとり、協調の実を挙げております。

米国民は、世界各種民族の集合的国民ともいえましよう。その各々異つた民族の持つ特性の長所を活かしつつ、かつ、お互いに協調して、米国という新しい国家を作らんとし、また作つているのであります。ニューヨークの如きコスモポリタンの大都市にあつては一個人のことも民族的に反映し、また評価され勝ちで、とくに日系人の場合、その責任は重大であります。されば、米国を墳墓の地と決意する永住一世や、その子孫である日系市民、さては国際場裡第一戦で活躍さ

(1) **共済部**：この部の仕事は極めて広範囲に亘つております。即ち、本会はつとめて、日系人の吉凶に対してはこれを共にする。困窮者の入院、リリース申請、老齢者の養老院入り、遺言状作製およびその執行（遺言状は合法的に作製されていない場合が多く、ために政府に遺産を没収されたケースが多くあります。）等の援助をはじめ、同胞の行路病者や身寄りなき死者の始末、失業者の就職斡旋や社会保障に関する世話、その他尋ね人の取調べ等々に努めております。本会の年中行事として、毎年五月三十日のメモリアル・デーにはとくにキリスト教会ならびに仏教会の御協力を得て、多くのものが日系人墓地に参集して先亡者の慰霊祭を盛大に行なつております。また、毎年クリスマス・シーズンには、この部が中心となつて、他の有志とともに公

宮の養老院、精神病院、その他に入院中の気の毒な日系人患者を漏れなく訪問して、すし、折詰その他慰問の品を贈り、心淋しく暮している人々を慰めております。本会のこうした行事に対しては、市当局や病院関係者から美挙として推賞されております。

本会には、ロングアイランド・マス・ペスのマウント・オリベット墓地内に日系人共同墓地がありますが、これは旧日本人会所有であつたのが、第二大戦中、敵性財産として、政府によりマウント・オリベット墓地会社売却されました。ただし、本会は同墓地会社より埋葬、慰霊祭は従前通り挙行できるよう確約を得ております。なお、同墓地は最近狹隘となりましたので、本会はさらに、ブルックリンのジャマイカ・アベニューとクレセント・ストリートにあるサイプレス・ヒル

上を図ることを目的としております。例えば、これまでに、祖国の名士の講演、国宝、古美術の紹介、あるいは茶道、華道、民芸等についての講演ならびに実演を催した如きがそれでありませう。

(ホ) **商務部**：この部は適切な座談会、講演会、あるいは有益な実地見学等を催して、日系人の経済的向上発展に資することを主要目的としております。

(ヘ) **二世部**：この部は、ファミリー・フロリツク、ニュー・イヤース・イーブ・ダンスなどの催しを通じて一世、二世、三世のよりよき協調親睦を計つております。先年のマイク正岡氏のテストモニアル・バンケット、一世パイオニア祝賀の催しなどは、この部の主催によつて行なわれたものであります。

(ト) **財務部**：この部は本会の予算を編成し必要に

墓地会社と交渉して、一定区劃の墓地を確保して希望者に斡旋の勞を取つております。

(ロ) **社会部**：この部は日系人相互の親睦慰安を計るため、年中行事として春の観桜ピクニック、夏の舟遊会、秋の紅葉狩その他演芸会等を催しておりますが、いづれも非常によき成績をあげております。

(ハ) **渉外部**：この部の仕事は、米人社会との協調を計り、日本紹介の勞を取るのを主眼としております。なおまた、邦文で米国社会保障法概要の冊子を出版し、日系人に配布したり、また最適と認める帰化手続きに関する邦文冊子を紹介するなどの勞も取つております。

(ニ) **文化部**：この部は、主として有益な講演会、またはデモンストレーション等を催し、日系人の文化向

じ寄附募集、催し物などを通じて資金の調達に努め、本会財務の任に當つております。また、この部は旧日本人会との合併の際、本会へ移管された特別基金を管理してあります。

(チ) **会員部**：この部は会員の増加、会費の徴収、ならびに会と会員との連絡を緊密にするのが任務であります。本会は会の基礎を強固にするためには、会費を以て運営に充てるまでに会員数を増やすことを理想としておりますので、会員募集はとくにこの部の最も重要な活動目的の一つとなつております。

(リ) **文書部**：この部は会報の発行、図書の整理、会史編纂等の任に當るために設けられた部門であります。

以上は各部門の任務ならびに活動についての概略で

ありますが、本会はまた、会全体としての活動も、必要に応じて行なっております。「日系人会の沿革」の章でも述べましたように、祖国の戦災民の救援事業もその一例であります。先年の伊勢湾台風などのように祖国の人々が自然の暴威によつて大災厄に会つたような場合、本会は率先して犠牲者救援のため募金運動を起しました。一九六〇年はたまたま日米修好百年に当つたので、本会は記念事業として、当市日系人社会の支援の下に、ニューヨーク市に日本桜の若樹百本を寄贈しました、この桜は市の公園課によつて、市立図書館、自然博物館、メトロポリタン美術館の各構内およびカール・シュルツ公園に分植され、ワグナー市長より、本会が市の美化プログラムに尽した功績を讃える感謝状が本会へ贈られました。また同年五月二十一

だけではなお不足で、年々の赤字会計を、当地方の日系人有志からの特別寄附によつて補つていけるといふのが実情であります。我々の理想とするところは、会費と、基金より生ずる利潤をもつて賄い得るところまで会員の増加を図ることです。

日本からお出でになつていらっしゃる方、また日系人皆さまの内、まだ会員となつておられない方々は、本会の目的に御賛同の上、振つて御入会下さるよう、切にお願いする次第であります。

日には、同じく修好百年記念事業として、当市および近郊に住む在米五十年以上の一世バイオニア一百三十余人をホテル・エディソンに招待して表彰祝賀会を催し、約三百人がこの世紀の祝賀会に席を列ねました。

### 五、なぜ皆さまの御支援が必要か

本会の在り方ならびに運営については、以上概説した通りであります。本会がこの目的を十分に果すことはなお前途遼遠であります。これが実現にさきだつものは健全な財政的基礎を築き上げることです。現在、本会の経常費は会費収入と、旧日本人会と合併した際、米政府から返還された同会の資産五万五千四百八十七ドルを以て設立された『JA記念基金』から生ずる利潤とによつて賄われておりますが、それ

★ ★ ★ ★ ★  
★ ★ ★ ★ ★  
**Join**  
★ ★ ★ ★ ★  
**Nikkeijin Kai**  
★ ★ ★ ★ ★  
**Now !!**  
★ ★ ★ ★ ★