

PRESS ANNOUNCEMENT For Immediate Release

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“Love Letters” Reads A Success for JCCCNC *A Heartwarming Play About Friendship, Romance, and Memories*

SAN FRANCISCO (July 24, 2006) – The Japanese Cultural and Community Center of Northern California (JCCCNC) presented “Love Letters” on Friday, July 7th, at the Herbst Theatre, where almost 1,000 community leaders, JCCCNC members and supporters, and the general public attended the performance benefiting JCCCNC. The one-night performance starred Nancy Kwan and James Shigeta, their first performance together in San Francisco since the groundbreaking film “Flower Drum Song” debuted in 1961. This was indeed a special performance as it was one of a very few times when two distinguished Asian American actors performed in this show.

LOVE LETTERS is comprised of letters exchanged over a lifetime between two people who grew up together, went their separate ways, but continued to share confidences. As the actors read their letters aloud, what is created is an evocative, touching, frequently funny but always telling pair of character studies in which what is implied is as revealing and meaningful as what is actually written down.

After the play ended, comments overheard from departing audience members were that people don’t write to each other any more. This is in reaction to one of the key scenes when the character Andy asks the question in one of his letters, “*Is writing a dying art?*” We agree that letter writing, as a form of communication, has been relegated to the list of lost arts. Yes, we are



fortunate to live with the increasing speed of technology where emails, text messages, and instant messaging, are common in business and personal communications. However, this same technology works against us by not taking a personal approach to communicating with each other. Some folks feel that we are poorer for this development.

The performance was followed by a first-class VIP reception and auction attended by over 250 JCCCNC members and supporters. Both Nancy Kwan and James Shigeta had an opportunity to meet their fans and sign a few autographs. During the dinner program they both acknowledged they were pleased to support the JCCCNC by participating in the annual fundraiser which supports JCCCNC's programs and events.

About the JCCCNC

Envisioned by the Japanese American community, JCCCNC will be an everlasting foundation of our Japanese American ancestry, cultural heritage, histories and traditions. The JCCCNC strives to meet the evolving needs of the Japanese American community through programs, affordable services and administrative support and facilities for other local service organizations. The JCCCNC is a 501(c)(3) non-profit community center based in San Francisco.



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