

PRESS ANNOUNCEMENT For Immediate Release

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JCCCNC seeks applicants for its 2009 Nikkei Youth Cultural Heritage Program

San Francisco, CA (December 10, 2008) – The Japanese Cultural and Community Center of Northern California

(JCCCNC) is currently seeking applicants for their 2009 Nikkei Youth Cultural Heritage Program (NYCH). The NYCH Program is being sponsored by the following four cultural centers in the United States: the Japanese Cultural and Community Center of Northern California (JCCCNC) in San Francisco, the Japanese American Cultural and Community Center (JACCC) in Los Angeles, the Japanese Cultural and Community Center of Washington, in Seattle and the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii in Honolulu. This unique program will bring six college-age participants from each of the respective cultural centers to Kobe, Japan for a month-long intensive language and homestay program.

The Nikkei Youth Cultural Heritage Program, in cooperation with the Kobe YMCA Language Program (Hyogo Prefecture, Japan) is designed for Nikkei youth to gain a better understanding of their ancestral and cultural background while discovering Japan in a unique and exciting way. This Program will allow participants to immerse themselves in Japanese culture through Japanese language and writing classes; attend introductory classes in traditional Japanese art forms; late afternoon and Saturday excursions exploring different parts of the Kansai region; all while having the opportunity to use and practice their Japanese language skills on a daily basis with their homestay families. Participants will stay with two families, for two weeks each.

This program is open to students at any level of the Japanese language, even those with little or no experience. Applicants must be 18 years of age and older and have completed a minimum of one semester of college studies.



2008 Participants at Kiyomizu Temple in Kyoto.
Jamie Kozono and Hilary Nakano, center L to R

The NYCH program participants will be chosen based on their application, essay and interview. Applicants will select the cultural center which is most convenient for them to be interviewed (week of February 15-21, 2009) and if selected, be able to attend a pre-trip workshop in preparation for their one-month stay in Japan.

The NYCH Program exclusive* tuition rate for the Kobe YMCA Summer Language Program is \$2,060.00 per student and does not include airfare. (*another program offered a similar Kobe language program at \$3795.00, without airfare in 2008) The NYCH Program is please to announce that with generous support from Japan Airlines, the NYCH Program has confirmed reduced roundtrip rates of \$750.00* from San Francisco or Los Angeles and \$700.00* from Honolulu, for its program participants. (*Does not include fuel surcharge and tax)

The NYCH Program price includes language class tuition, texts and class materials; hotel stay (for two nights); homestay fee, which includes breakfast and dinner daily; participation in traditional cultural art classes (which may include ikebana, karate or shodo); and day trips to Kyoto and Nara. Not included in the program cost is air travel to Japan, domestic transportation in Japan and/or personal spending money. The JCCCNC will be offering four \$500.00 partial scholarships for participants applying through the JCCCNC for its 2009 NYCH Program.



2007 Ali Kagawa (center) with one of her host families.

A 2007 participant of the Kobe YMCA Language Program, Ali Kagawa, said, “It was truly a memorable experience.” Ali learned more about her Japanese culture through language but felt that the homestay experience was invaluable and “unique” because she felt that she “had the opportunity to live with a family – not stay, but live. I felt like an actual member of the

family.” Ali still stays in contact with her homestay families as well as the many friends from other countries she met during her time in Kobe, Japan.

For more information and to download the application, visit the JCCCNC website at www.jcccnc.org or call Lori Matoba at (415) 567-5505 x226. Applications are due on Friday, February 6, 2009.

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About the Kobe YMCA Language School

The Kobe YMCA Japanese Language School was established in 1872. Its goal is to develop strength, knowledge, and understanding of the totality of the Japanese language in “reading”, “writing”, “listening” and “speaking.” Its curriculum covers a broad range of levels that focuses on personal one-on-one attention that suits every individual’s learning style. It has small class sizes, with courses lasting as short as one-month to two years.

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 facility usage. The JCCCNC is a non-profit community center based in San Francisco.