

**PRESS ANNOUNCEMENT
For Immediate Release**

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Japanese Cultural and Community Center of Northern California

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**JCCCNC PRESENTS A UNIQUE CULINARY EXPERIENCE: *TABEMASHO*
(*LET'S EAT!*) ON SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2009**

San Francisco (September 3, 2009) – The Japanese Cultural and Community Center of Northern California (JCCCNC) 2009 Annual Event – *Tabemasho (Let's Eat!)* - on September 19 at the JCCCNC will celebrate 140 years of Japanese food in America. Through those 140 years, food has played an important role in connecting people and the community. Gathering around the table to eat, celebrate, remember and rejoice has been a tradition that has survived the test of time.

Tabemasho (Let's Eat!) will feature special surprise guests as well as celebrity chefs Alex Ong of Betelnut Restaurant, Rodolfo Reyes of La Mar Cebicheria, Chef Seiji Wakabayashi of Bushi-Tei and Mike Yakura of Ozumo Restaurant. All four chefs will be showing off their culinary expertise through their food demonstrations and sampling of their creation.

The event will also feature homemade Nikkei comfort foods that will showcase signature dishes from people around the community. Event participants will have the opportunity to taste these various family dishes that have been passed from generation to generation.

In addition to celebrating Japanese food in America, *Tabemasho (Let's Eat!)*, will honor several of San Francisco/Bay Area's finest Japanese American community small retailers that have helped our community stay connected through our love of Japanese food. The honorees will be Azumaya, Inc of San Francisco, Benkyodo Company of San Francisco, San Jose Tofu Co. of San Jose, Santo Market, Inc. of San Jose, Shuei-Do Manju Shop of San Jose, Takahashi Market of San Mateo, Tokyo Fish Market of Berkeley, Uoki K. Sakai Co. of San Francisco and Yamada Seika of San Francisco.

Tabemasho (Let's Eat!) will also present the Kay Okamoto Volunteer Service Award to JoAnne Aiko Takata of Oakland, California and the Takeo Okamoto Community Leadership Award to Sherman Mikio Kishi of Livingston, California.

For more information about this special event or to purchase tickets, please contact the JCCCNC at (415) 567-5505. Tickets and sponsorships may also be purchased online at <https://www.acteva.com/go/jcccnc>.

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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.