

## PRESS ANNOUNCEMENT For Immediate Release

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### Application Deadline Approaching for 2009 Summer Study Abroad in Kobe, Japan

*San Francisco, CA (January 26, 2009)* – The deadline to apply for the 2009 Nikkei Youth Cultural Heritage

(NYCH) Program is Thursday, February 5, 2009. The NYCH Program is sponsored by 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 (JCCCW), in Seattle and the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii in Honolulu (JCCH). Each cultural center will choose up to six college students to participate in a month-long intensive language study and homestay program in Kobe, Japan.

The NYCH Program, in cooperation with the Kobe YMCA Language School (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, introductory classes in traditional Japanese art forms, and late afternoon and Saturday excursions exploring different parts of the Kansai region all the while using and practicing their Japanese language skills daily with their homestay families. The Kobe YMCA Language Program is an accredited university and some past participants received college credit for their language study.

This program is open to students at any level of the Japanese language skills, even those with little or no experience. Applicants must be 18 years of age and older and



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

have completed a minimum of one semester of college studies. 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 at (week of February 15-21, 2009) and if selected, must be able to attend a pre-trip workshop in preparation for their one-month stay in Japan.

“As corny as it may sound, going to Japan through the NYCH Program was a once-in-a-lifetime experience for me. What made my trip unique was staying with two separate families for two weeks each. I learned more than I could've imagined with my home-stay families,” Hillary Nakano, current UC Santa Barbara student and 2008 participant of the Kobe YMCA Language Program wrote after her return. “This program has instilled pride in me; I’m proud to tell people I am Japanese American and am a part of a strong and passionate community. But most importantly, I’m proud to be a product of America *and* Japan.” Hillary remains 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](http://www.jcccnc.org) or call Ali Kagawa at (415) 567-5505.

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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.