JAPANESE AMERICANS

1. Generations, Immigration and Length of U.S. Residency

Japanese Americans may be classified into several social categories based upon their immigration, nativity, and generation history. These categories are:

a. Isseis. These are the first generation of Japanese who immigrated here at the end of the nineteenth and the beginning of the twentieth century. Most of these people have passed on although a few remain. The Isseis were culturally Japanese.

b. Niseis (second generation). These were the descendants of the Isseis. They are American born and ethnically marginal between being American and Japanese (but really more American).

c. Sanseis (third generation), yonseis (fourth generation), goseis (fifth generation), etc. These are descendants of the original Isseis so many generations removed and most have little contact with Japanese culture and language. They have pretty much assimilated into American society.

d. Shin Isseis (new first generation). These are Japanese who immigrated to America after World War II. From 1924 until 1952 immigration from Japan was prohibited so this is the first generation of Japanese who came after WWII and are ethnically Japanese.

There are others in the Japanese American population like Japanese businessmen and their families from Japan along with Japanese students. There are also significant numbers of Japanese married to Americans.

2. Family and Children

The original immigrants from Japan brought with them a strong sense of family and commitment to their children’s welfare. Coming from a country heavily influenced by Confucian values, emphasis on the family was always central. The family was seen as the major social unit and survival weapon against a hostile world. Strong emphasis is put on family ties. Family continuity was strongly emphasized and children (especially the sons) were regarded as the carriers of the family name. Fierce hostilities against the Japanese before WWII maintained the view that children should be well educated and disciplined to adapt to this hostile world. These views have prevailed throughout the history of the Japanese Americans and were the major factors for how they were able to rise from humble beginnings into the main stream of American society. Family is still highly valued but maintaining family ties does not have that strong sense of urgency it once had. Divorce rates have been traditionally low but has been increasing in recent years.

3. Language

The original immigrants - the Isseis - spoke only Japanese. The Niseis spoke English but were familiar with Japanese in order to communicate with their parents. In the tightly knit Japanese communities of pre-World War II, speaking Japanese was considered very important and most Niseis were sent to Japanese language schools. With the decline of this tightly knit community and the passing on of the Isseis, Japanese is rarely spoken or known among younger Japanese Americans. Those who do speak Japanese are mostly recent arrivals.
4. Religion and Spiritually

Historically, religion in the American sense of Sunday School attendance, belief in a single faith, relative intolerance of other faiths, is alien to the Japanese. In general they are tolerant of all theologies and have not institutionalized religion to the extent that most Americans have. This does not mean they are not religious but very flexible and more pragmatic about religious views. It was not unusual for a person to be both Buddhist and Christian. Most of the original immigrants were Buddhists or Shinto but substantial numbers became Christians partly out of feelings that being such would better help them in adapting to American society. All of the major religious groups are now represented in the Japanese American community from Buddhists to the major denominations of the Protestant church and Catholics. With the greater integration and their dispersal out of their ghetto like “little Tokyo’s;” the Japanese American churches have still managed to survive but after undergoing significant changes. For example, Buddhist and Shinto temples now have taken on the characteristics of Western churches - they have Sunday services, Sunday schools, etc. Most important, churches have become the focal points and major avenues for any kind of community involvement. They offer a variety of social services and are frequent rallying points for social and political action.

5. Manners, Customs, Etiquette, Gestures and Taboos

Many if not most of the manners, customs, etc. which the original immigrants displayed have been abandoned or changed. While recent generations of Japanese Americans are taking on the mannerisms, habits of other middle class Americans, one can still detect certain common characteristics.

- An emphasis on appropriate manners - eating habits, courtesy, dress.
- Discouragement of being confrontational - not making waves
- Modesty - bragging is looked down upon
- Avoidance of eye contact, a characteristic still common among younger Japanese Americans.
- Strong respect for elders and authority

6. Cultural Ideals

Cultural ideals too have undergone significant changes from those that the original immigrants brought from Japan. The Japanese like other Asians were deeply influenced by Confucianism and this is reflected in their cultural ideals and practices. In a way, these ideals and practices were quite compatible with American middle class values and quite consistent with the ideals of traditional Protestantism:

- Emphasis on hard work and discipline
- Emphasis on delayed gratification -- sacrifice now for the future
- Respect for authority
- Monetary success and social mobility are very important -- pursue the American Dream.
7. Social Interaction and Relationships

Norms which guide present day interaction among Japanese American have their roots in Japanese culture. The Japanese have always been more group sensitive than Westerners. When interacting with others they are always aware of the social context in which they are interacting - the social status of the person they are interacting with, their age, gender, etc. Traditional Japanese language patterns differed depending upon the status of the actors. This sensitivity still prevails but is less pervasive but Japanese Americans are more group conscious and pragmatic about preserving group ties. They will adapt new practices if it helps preserve the integrity of the group. This group awareness means that conformity to group norms is very strong. The way a person behaves is strongly influenced by what he/she feels others think about his/her behavior. In contrast to Western people who more likely to express their opinions openly in an assertive manner, Japanese tend to speak and act only after due consideration has been given to the other person's feelings and point of view. Furthermore, there is a habit of not giving a clear-cut yes or no answer.

Younger Japanese Americans (like their contemporaries in Japan) are less sensitive to group pressure but they are still more reserved and passive. Indeed, many professionals (teachers, social workers, lawyers, etc.) working with them have to make a concerted effort to insure that they are expressing their true feelings.

8. The Role of the Library

The library could assist Japanese Americans in bridging their two cultures of Japanese and American in several ways. First of all, the library could assist those who are coming to grips with their ethnic identity by helping them discover who they are. Materials could be provided to help them better understand where they came and educational programs to discover and appreciate their cultural roots. These programs would be especially helpful to the younger Japanese Americans who are generations removed from the Japanese culture of their ancestors. Since most cannot read or speak Japanese, information must be available for them in English - books audio and video tapes on Japanese culture, the Japanese American experience.

Secondly, the library could assist those recent arrivals to better adapt to American ways. Since many of these people are limited in their English abilities, information should be available in their native Japanese. As recent arrivals, many are not familiar and ignorant of American customs and they often have very little help. It is especially important that the assistance provided by the library goes beyond just information about getting by from day to day. The Japanese come from a homogeneous society and they have little knowledge about what it is like to live in a diverse society. They are often ignorant about other racial and ethnic groups and have no understanding of issues like gender rights. Their lack of knowledge on these matters has often led others to regard them as racist or sexist. Programs to educate them on how to live humanely in America would be something the library might be of great assistance.
JAPANESE EXPRESSIONS FOR LIBRARY USE

1. How are you? いかがですか？ Ikagadesuka?
2. Can I help you? 何か御必要ですか？ Nanika goshitsuyodesuka?
3. Wait a moment, please. ちょっとお待ち下さい。 Chotto omachikudasai.
4. Do you have a library card? ライブラリーカードをお持ちですか？ Library card wo omochidesuka?
5. What's your name? お名前は？ Onamae wa?
6. What's your last name? 苗字は何ですか？ Myoji wa nandesuka?
7. Please return the books by this date. この日までに本をお返しください。 Kono hi made ni hon wo okaeshikudasai.
8. Some books are overdue. 返却されていない 本があります。 Henkyakusarete inai hon ga arimasu.
9. I'm sorry. There is a fine. すみませんが、返却滞納金がつきます。 Sumimasenga, henkyaku tainokin ga tsukimasu.
10. Ask the librarian. 司書にきて下さい。 Shisho ni kiitekudasai.
11. Everything is fine. 問題ありません。 Mondai arimasen.
12. Thank you. ありがとうございます。 Arigato.
13. You are welcome どういたしまして。 Do itashimashite.
14. Excuse me. すみませんが。 Sumimasenga.

15. Good bye. さようなら。 Sayonara.

16. Please come back. またどうぞ。 Mata dozo.
CALENDAR OF HOLIDAYS AND CELEBRATIONS

National Holidays:

Jan. 1: New Year’s Day (Ganjitsu) People go out to shrines or temples to pay their respects to their ancestors and to pray for their safety and good luck. And people visit their relatives and friends to exchange New Year’s greetings during the early part of January.

Jan. 15: Adult’s Day (Seijin no Hi) To honor young people who have reached 20 years old, voting age. Most cities and towns sponsor ceremonies on this day.

Feb. 11: National Foundation Day (Kenkoku Kinenbi) To celebrate accession to the throne of the first emperor Jimmu.

Mar. 21: Vernal Equinox Day (Shunbun no Hi) To celebrate the coming of spring. People visit ancestral graves.

Apr. 29: Greenery Day (Midori no Hi) Tree-Planting campaign prevails.

May 3: Constitution Memorial Day (Kenpo Kinenbi) To commemorate promulgation of Japan’s new peace constitution, a postwar creation.

May 4: People’s Holiday (Kokumin no Shukujitsu)

May 5: Children’s Day (Kodomo no Hi) Formerly called Boy’s Day. To celebrate growth of children in good health.

Sep. 15: Respect for the Aged Day (Keiro no Hi) Celebrations are held for the aged people.

Sept. 23: Autumnal Equinox Day (Shubun no Hi) To celebrate the first day of autumn and to venerate one’s ancestors.

Oct. 10: Health-Sports Day (Taiiku no Hi) To encourage the people to enjoy sports, thus building up healthy life.

Nov. 3: Culture Day (Bunka no Hi) To encourage the people to love peace, freedom and culture.

Nov. 23: Labor Thanksgiving Day (Kinro Kansha no Hi) Frequently combined with celebrations of a good harvest in the country-side.

Dec. 23: Emperor’s Birthday (Tenno Tanjobi) The Imperial Palace will be opened to the public.

Festivals:

Jan. 6: New Year’s Parade of Firemen at Harumi, Tokyo

Feb. 1-5: Snow Festival at Sapporo, Hokkaido.

Feb. 3 or 4: Setsubun or Bean-Throwing Ceremony

Feb. 8: Koto-Hajime refers to the beginning of all the year’s works nationwide.

Mar. 3: Hinamatsuri or Dolls Festival for girls

Apr. 1-30: Miyako Odori (Cherry Dance) at Gion, Kyoto

Apr. 8: Hana Matsuri or the Flower Festival celebrates the birthday of Buddha.

May 3-4: Dontaku in Hakata, Fukuoka

May 11-Oct. 15: Cormorant Fishing on the Nagara River, Gifu.

May 15: Aoi Matsuri or Hollyhock Festival, Kyoto

May 16-18: Black Ship (Com. Perry’s) Festival celebrates arrival of ship in Shimoda Port.

May 16-18: Sanja Festival of Asakusa Shrine, Tokyo

May 17-18: Grand Festival of Toshogu Shrine, Nikko

Jun. 14: Rice-Planting Festival at Sumiyoshi Shrine, Osaka

Jul. 1: Opening of the climbing season, Fujimiya City, Mt. Fuji

Jul. 1-15: Hakata Yamagasa (floats), Fukuoka
Jul. 13-16: O-bon Matsuri celebrates the arrival and departure of ancestors souls in this world.
Jul. 16-17: Gion Festival of Yasaka Shrine, Kyoto
Jul. 24-25: Tenjin Festival of Tenmangu Shrine. Osaka
Aug. 1-7: Nebuta at Hirosaki & Aug. 3-7 Nebuta at Aomori
Aug. 5-7: Kanto-Balancing Festival, Akita
Aug. 6-8: Tanabata or Star Festival, Sendai
Aug. 15: Moon viewing and Tug-of-War festivals around the country.
Aug 16: Great Bonfire on Mt. Myoigadake, Kyoto
Sept. 15-16: Tsurugaoka Hachimangu Shrine Festival, Kamakura.
Oct. 7-9: Okunchi Festival of Suwa Shrine, Nagasaki
Oct. 9-10: Takayama Festival, Takayama, Gifu
Oct. 11-13: Oeshiki Festival of Honmonji Temple, Tokyo
Oct. 17: Autumn Festival of Toshogu Shrine, Nikko
Oct. 22: Jidai Matsuri or Festival of Eras, Kyoto
Nov. 3: Feudal Lord’s Procession, Hakone
Nov. 15: Shichi-go-san or Children’s Shrine Visiting Day
Nov. 23: Niiname or Rice-Pounding Festival.
Dec. 17: On-Matsuri of Kasuga Shrine, Nara
Mid-Dec: Toshi-no-ichi or Year-end Market at Asakusa Kannon Temple, Tokyo.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>POPULAR AUTHORS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. 赤川次郎</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. 草薙之介</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. 有吉佐和子</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. 阿刀田高</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. 陳舜臣</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. 太宰治</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. 江戸川乱歩</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. 冨田文子</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. 近藤周作</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. 藤沢周平</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11. 源氏鶴太郎</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12. 林扶美子</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13. 林真理子</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14. 橋田壽賀子</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15. 平岩弓枝</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16. 萩原正太郎</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17. 井上ひさし</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18. 井上靖三</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19. 石田三成</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20. 五木寛之</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21. 関高健</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22. 勝目郎</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23. 海音寺潮五郎</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24. 川端康成</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25. 児島</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26. 松本清張</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27. 三島由紀夫</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28. 三浦綾子</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29. 宮本輝</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30. 森田子</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31. 宮尾登美子</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>32. 村上春樹</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>33. 向田邦子</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>34. 永井路子</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35. 夏木静子</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>36. 夏目漱石</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>37. 西村京太郎</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>38. 新田次郎</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>39. 落合信彦</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40. 斎藤栄</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>41. 佐藤愛子</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>42. 堺屋太一</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>43. 瀬戸内晴美</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>44. 司馬遼太郎</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45. 東海林さだお</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>46. 酒野経子</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>47. 田辺聖子</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>48. 竹井康隆</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>49. 和久俊三</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50. 渡辺淳一</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>51. 山本周五郎</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>52. 山村美沙</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>53. 山岡荘八</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>54. 山崎豊子</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>55. 柳田邦男</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>56. 吉川英治</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
ノンフィクション一覧表

0 0 0 文献
1 0 0 哲学 心理学
2 0 0 宗教 関係
3 0 0 社会学
4 0 0 言語学
5 0 0 サイエンス（数学. 宇宙化学. 植物. 動物）
6 0 0 科学技術（医学. 工学 農業. 家庭 大工. 建築）
7 0 0 芸術
8 0 0 文学 文学評論
9 0 0 地理 歴史
NEWPAPERS

Amerasia Journal
   UCLA Asian American Studies Center
   3230 Campbell Hall,
   Los Angeles, CA 90095-1546
   Tel: (310) 825-2974
   Fax: (310) 206-9844

Asian Week (Donation)
   809 Sacramento Street
   San Francisco, CA 94108
   Tel: (415) 397-0220
   Fax: (415) 397-7258

The East
   Kato Bldg., 5F, 19-2 Akasaka 2,
   Minato-ku, Tokyo 107-0052, Japan
   (or)
   P.O. Box 591360
   San Francisco, CA 94159-1360
   Tel: (03) 3224-3751 (Tokyo’s Office)
   Fax: (03) 3224-3754 (Tokyo’s Office)
   U.S. Subscription Office’s Tel & Fax Numbers are Unknown.

Hiragana Times
   (Publishing)
   YAC Planning Inc.
   Kowa Bldg. 4F, 2-3-12 Shinjuku
   Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo 160-0022
   (Editorial Dept.)
   Tel: 03-3341-8989
   Fax: 03-3341-8987

Japan Echo
   Moto Akasaka Bldg., 1-7-10 Moto Akasaka
   Minato-ku, Tokyo 107, Japan
   Tel: (03) 3470-5031
   Fax: (03) 3470-5410

Japan Times Weekly International Edition
   3655 Torrance Blvd., Suite 430
Torrance, CA 90503
Tel: 1-800-446-0200
Fax: (310) 540-3462

Kansai Timeout
1-13, Ikuta-cho 1-chome
Chuo-ku, Kobe 651-0092
Tel: 078-232-4516 / 4517
Fax: 078-232-4518

Tokyo Journal
Intercontinental Marketing Corp.
1-19-8 Kakigaracho, Nihonbashi
Chuo-ku, Tokyo 103-0014
Tel: 3661-7458
Fax: 3667-9646
☆Ethnic Media Resources☆

1. テレフォン ガイド
   The Japanese Business Directory & Guide
   S.F. Japan Publicity, Inc. 1721 Rogers Ave., #Q, San Jose, CA 95112

2. 日系職業別電話帳
   Pacific Mediart Productions 1581 Webster St., Suit 110, S. F., 94115

3. イエローページ ジャパン
   Yellow Pages Japan in U. S. A.: A Directory of Japanese Businesses in the
   U. S. Covering 25 Major Metropolitan Areas.
   Yellow Pages Japan, Inc. 420 Boyd St., Ste. 502. Los Angeles, CA 90013
WEB SITES

Asian American Resources

Consulate General of Japan—San Francisco
http://www.infojapan.com/cgjsf

Japanese American Network
http://www.janet.org

Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO)
http://www.jetro.go.jp

Kinokuniya
http://www.kinokuniya.co.jp
PEOPLE RESOURCES

Asawa, Edward E.
Library Consultant
Franklin D. Murphy Library
Japanese American Cultural and Community Center
244 S. San Pedro St.
Los Angeles, CA 90012
213-628-2725 ext. 125

Fujimoto, Seiko
Japanese Benevolent Society of California
1832 Buchanan St., #216
San Francisco, CA 94115
415-771-3440

Japan Information Center
Consulate General of Japan
50 Fremont St., 22nd Fl.
San Francisco, CA 94105
415-777-3533

Japanese Culture and Community Center of Northern California
1840 Sutter St.
San Francisco, CA 94115
415-567-5505

Matsushita, Karl
Director
Japanese American National Library
1619 Sutter St.
San Francisco, CA 94109
415-567-5006

Nakamura, Mamiko
International Center
San Francisco Public Library
100 Larkin St.,
San Francisco, CA 94102
415-557-4430

Oka, Seizo
Executive Director
Japanese American History Archives
1840 Sutter St.
San Francisco, CA 94115
415-776-0661

Tsuchiya, Kazuko
Board Member
Friends of the Japanese Collection, Western Addition Branch Library
San Francisco Public Library
San Francisco, CA 94115
415-931-3997
## LIBRARIES WITH EXPERTISE SERVING ASIAN LANGUAGE SPEAKERS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Library/Institution</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>San Francisco Public Library Western Addition Branch</td>
<td>1559 Scott Street, San Francisco, CA 94115</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>San Francisco Public Library International Language Center at Main Library</td>
<td>100 Larkin Street, San Francisco, CA 94102</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of San Francisco</td>
<td>2130 Fulton Street, San Francisco, CA 94117</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>San Francisco State University</td>
<td>1600 Holloway Street, San Francisco, CA 94123</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Japanese American National Library</td>
<td>1759 Sutter Street, San Francisco, CA 94115</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. Seizo Oka c/o Japanese American Archives</td>
<td>1840 Sutter Street, San Francisco, CA 94115</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Information Center Japanese Consulate General of Japan</td>
<td>50 Fremont Street, San Francisco, CA 94105</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Japan External Trade Organization</td>
<td>360 Post Street, San Francisco, CA 94108</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian Art Museum of San Francisco</td>
<td>Golden Gate Park, San Francisco, CA 94118</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Japanese American Citizens League San Francisco Chapter</td>
<td>4205 22nd Street, San Francisco, CA 94118</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Japan Society of Northern California</td>
<td>312 Sutter Street, Suite 410, San Francisco, CA 94114</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>San Mateo Library</td>
<td>55 W. 3rd Avenue, San Mateo, CA 94403</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marin County Library</td>
<td>3501 Civic Center Drive, San Rafael, CA 94901</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East Asian Collection Hoover Institution Stanford University</td>
<td>Stanford, CA 94305</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East Asian Library</td>
<td>208 Durant Hall, University of California at Berkeley, Berkeley, CA 94720</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oriental Library</td>
<td>University of California at Los Angeles, 405 Hilgard Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90024</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>