



# Nanka Yamaguchi Kenjinkai Newsletter



Volume XII, Issue 1

1st Quarter 2024

## 2024 New Year Luncheon Sunday, February 25, 2024

Despite the forecast of possible showers, there was no rain on our New Year luncheon! Eighty members gathered at the Quiet Cannon to celebrate the Year of the Dragon.

Emcee **Aki Fukuhara-Vaughn** welcomed everyone and introduced special guests: **JK Yamamoto**, Rafu Shimpo staff writer, and TV actress-singer-dancer, **Tricia Fukuhara**, who recently starred in the Paramount+ series, "Rise of the Pink Ladies." Also in attendance was WWII 442nd Battalion veteran and NYK member, **Yosh Nakamura**.

**NYK President Arturo Yoshimoto** introduced New Year video greetings from **Yamaguchi Governor Tsugumasa Muraoka** and the 2024 NYK Board Officers (*photo below*):



*L-R: Outgoing president Arturo Yoshimoto with 2024 Board Officers: President Bruce Kimura, Vice President Clark Yoshida, Secretary Aki Fukuhara-Vaughn, and Treasurer Naomi Suenaka.*

Arturo turned the gavel over to **Bruce Kimura** whose first official duty was to present Arturo a rosewood plaque from the Board Members for his eight years of outstanding leadership serving as NYK president.

Bruce then gave the invocation and introduced former NYK president **Patrick Seki** who gave the Toast to signal that lunch was served.



*Bruce Kimura presents an award to outgoing president Arturo Yoshimoto.*

During dessert, Aki presented a review of 2023 events.

Bruce Kimura then presented dragon gifts to members who were born in 1940, 1952, 1964, 1976, 1988, 2000, and 2012. Ten members received dragon souvenirs donated by Board Member **Lisa Hernandez** (*see photo on pg. 4*).

This year, we were honored to have two entertainers. Opening the musical program was Koto player, **Saeko Kujiraoka**, who impressed with her beautiful and riveting performances of "Sakura, Sakura" and "Choo-Choo Train."



*Ms. Saeko Kujiraoka.*

**Florence Ochi** next spoke of the "Finding Your Roots" project that is open to anyone interested in learning about their family history in Japan (*see pg. 5 for details on the next seminar*).

**Clark Yoshida**, Scholarship Committee Chair, announced that the 2024 Scholarship application forms are available to

*(Continued on page 4)*

## 2024 New Year Luncheon

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Guests of Honor—Senior NYK Members 80+





## New Year—(Cont'd from p1)

graduating high school students of Yamaguchi descendants (details on pg.5). Clark then introduced past scholarship recipients who were present at the luncheon (photo this page).

Next on the program was the highlight of the day: honoring our seniors. **Atsuko Kimoto** called the names of 19 members 80 years and older: **Ayako Fujita, Masako Fukuhara, Victor Fukuhara, Les Hamasaki, Charles Hashibe, Eiko Hashibe, Yoshie Ishigame, Yoshiko Kishimoto, Hisako Nagamine, Yosh Nakamura, Joan Nakatsu, Mary Nakayama, Mitsunori Nishikawa, Mitsuko Ono, Patrick Seki, Yaeko Tanaka, Masaharu Yamada, Fusaye Yamasaki, and Momoyo Yasuda** (photo pg.2).

The always popular Bingo games followed with **Warren Fukuhara** (age 13) doing a great job calling out the numbers.

With the help of our scholarship recipients, goodie bags were distributed to all.

Finally, singer-ukelele player, **Chester Ikei**, closed out the program with two very popular songs: the poignant "Furusato," and everyone's favorite, "Sukiyaki."

All Board members then gathered on stage to thank everyone for attending. We wish to see you again at our upcoming picnic in June. Stay safe and healthy! *Matane!*



*Members born in the Year of the Dragon.*



**Former Scholarship Recipients**  
*Paige Fukuhara (2019), Luca Mukai (2022), Tricia Fukuhara (2009), Kristin Kimura (2010), Lauren Tsuneishi (2017), and Clark Yoshida (2003).*



*Ukelele player/Singer*  
**Chester Ikei.**



**Arturo Yoshimoto and Reira Tanaka.**

*All Photos by*  
**Reira Tanaka**



**2024 NYK Board Members**  
*Arturo Yoshimoto, Mike Vaughn, Florence Ochi, Atsu Kimoto, Bruce Kimura, Clark Yoshida, Naomi Suenaka, Lorraine Kimura, and Aki Fukuhara-Vaughn.*  
*Not Pictured: Lisa Hernandez, Laura Lee and Michi Otaya.*

## Tritia Toyota Book Signing Event



NYK member **Tritia Toyota**  
and 2023 NYK President

**Arturo Yoshimoto** recently attended a book signing event at the West Los Angeles Buddhist Temple on March 3rd to introduce **Tritia Toyota's** new book, *Intimate Strangers: Shin Issei Women and Contemporary Japanese American Community, 1980–2020*.

*Intimate Strangers* is a study of the migration of young shin issei women and their struggle to find their identity in a new and diverse country. The book tells the stories of the resilience of these women to find a place, economically and socially, within their community.

Tritia Toyota, an **NYK member**, began her illustrious career in 1970 as a radio reporter with KNX-AM. She became a popular and well-respected TV news anchor on KNBC-TV and KCBS-TV for almost 25 years.

Ms. Toyota is currently a Research Scholar at the Asian American Studies Center at the UCLA. She is the author of *Envisioning America: New Chinese Americans and the Politics of Belonging*. She also wrote and produced the documentary, "Asian America" and is the recipient of the "Award for Excellence in Graduate Mentoring and Teaching" from the UCLA Asian American Studies Graduate Student Association.

## Follow Us on Social Media

<b>Facebook</b>	Yamaguchi-Kenjinkai-Los Angeles
<b>Instagram</b>	Username: Nanka.Yamaguchi.Kenjinkai If you have any pictures you would like uploaded onto the Instagram account, please send them to <a href="mailto:nanka.yamaguchi.kenjinkai@gmail.com">nanka.yamaguchi.kenjinkai@gmail.com</a> with the subject "Yamaguchi Instagram Picture." In the email, please give us your name and caption to go along with the picture.
<b>Website</b>	<a href="http://yamaguchi-usa.org">http://yamaguchi-usa.org</a>
<b>Email</b>	<a href="mailto:Nanka.Yamaguchi.Kenjinkai@gmail.com">Nanka.Yamaguchi.Kenjinkai@gmail.com</a>

## Finding Your Roots Seminar

Are you interested in how to research finding your family roots in Japan? You will learn how to navigate the difficult hurdles when you attend the next "Finding Your Roots" seminar:

When: Saturday, April 20, 2024  
Time: 11:00 AM  
Location: Faith United Methodist Church, Torrance  
Fee: \$30—includes binder of reference materials and bento lunch

Contact **Florence Ochi** at [florenceochi19@gmail.com](mailto:florenceochi19@gmail.com) with any questions.

## In Memory Of...

A special thank you to Nanka Yamaguchi Kenjinkai members for their donations:

Arturo Yoshimoto  
In Memory of June Hayashi

Garry Monji  
In Memory of Yoshiko Monji

## Scholarship Forms Now Available!



Scholarship applications are **NOW AVAILABLE** to graduating high school seniors who are descendants of Yamaguchi-Ken.

The scholarship application forms can be downloaded from our Facebook page at [Yamaguchi-Kenjinkai-Los Angeles](https://www.facebook.com/Yamaguchi-Kenjinkai-Los-Angeles) or on our website at <http://yamaguchi-usa.org>. For any questions, please contact **Clark Yoshida** at [yoshidaclark@gmail.com](mailto:yoshidaclark@gmail.com).

**APPLICATIONS ARE DUE NO LATER THAN MAY 24, 2024.**

Recipient(s) will be awarded their scholarships at our annual picnic on Sunday, June 9, 2024.

## \* 2024 NYK Annual Picnic \*

George Elder Park  
1950 Wilcox Avenue  
Monterey Park, CA

**Sunday, June 9, 2024**  
Watch your email for details!



## New Year Luncheon Special Acknowledgements

### Entertainers

Saeko Kujiraoka, Koto  
(Performance sponsored by Lisa Hernandez)

Chester Ikei, Singer/Ukelele  
(Performance sponsored by Bruce Kimura)

### Rafu Shimpō

JK Yamamoto, Journalist

### Photographer

Reira Tanaka

### Projector

Trace Fukuhara

### Audio Visual Operators

Mike Vaughn & Kristin Kimura

### Centerpieces

Donated by Naomi Suenaka, Bruce & Lorraine Kimura  
Decorations donated by Lisa Hernandez

### Gifts to Dragon Members and David Akiyoshi Wine

Donated by Lisa Hernandez

### Bingo Prize

2 Prizes Donated by Yoshie Ishigame

### Hawaiian Rolls

Donated by King's Hawaiian Bakery  
procured by Florence Ochi

### Almond Cookies

Donated by Lorraine and Bruce Kimura



*Volunteers Lauren Tsuneishi, Tricia Fukuhara, and Luca Mukai.*

## New Year Luncheon Donors

Glenn Kawahara	\$5.00	Clark Yoshida	\$55.00
JoAnn Fukuhara	\$10.00	Kaz Kishimoto	\$65.00
Joan Nakatsu	\$30.00	Hisako Nagamine	\$100.00
Yosh Nakamura	\$45.00	Mary Nakayama	\$100.00
Paige Fukuhara	\$45.00	Patick Seki	\$100.00
Judith Hawkins	\$45.00	Mike & Aki Vaughn	\$100.00
Ayaka Fujita	\$50.00	Naomi Suenaka	\$105.00
Yoshie Ishigame	\$50.00	Victor Fukuhara	\$300.00
Masaharu Yamada	\$50.00	Lisa Hernandez	\$500.00
Atsu Kimoto	\$55.00	Michi Otaya	\$500.00
Yaeko Tanaka	\$55.00	Arturo Yoshimoto	\$1,000.00

*Every donation is appreciated!*

*Your continued support of the Nanka Yamaguchi Kenjinkai allows us to provide events to maintain connections that our forefathers established in 1905.*

### Volunteers

Paige Fukuhara	Kristin Kimura
Tony Fukuhara	Kevin Lee
Tricia Fukuhara	Luca Mukai
Warren Fukuhara	Tricia Tao
Bryan Kimura	Lauren Tsuneishi

THANK YOU!  
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## Nanka Yamaguchi Kenjinkai

### 2024 Board Officers

Bruce Kimura	President
Clark Yoshida	Vice President
Aki Fukuhara-Vaughn	Secretary
Naomi Suenaka	Treasurer
Laura Lee	Yamaguchi Government Liaison
Mike Vaughn	Legal Counsel

**2024 Board Members:** Lisa Hernandez, Atsuko Kimoto, Lorraine Kimura, Florence Ochi, and Michiko Otaya.

**2024 Board Advisors:** Victor Fukuhara, Kiyoshi Igawa, Patrick Seki, Helen & Henry Yasuda, & Arturo Yoshimoto.

Facebook & Instagram Administrator	Laura Lee
Webmaster	Bruce Thompson
Newsletter Creator	Aki Fukuhara-Vaughn