

# Nanka Yamaguchi Kenjinkai Newsletter



Volume VIII, Issue 1

1st Quarter 2019

## 2019 New Year Luncheon Sunday, February 24, 2019



After weeks of rainy weather, the sun came out for our New Year luncheon at the Quiet Cannon in Montebello. Eighty guests enjoyed a fun day celebrating the Year of the Boar.

Emcee, **Aki Fukuhara-Vaughn**, extended New Year greetings to all. A moment of silence was held for members who passed away in the previous 12 months: **Ruby Okinaka, Toshii Osaka, Hiroshi Igawa, Yoshinobu Ono**, 2018 NYK President **Richard Fukuhara**, and **Dennis Nakamura**.

A brief general meeting was then opened by acting president, **Florence Ochi**, who introduced the 2019 officers for approval by the members:

### 2019 NYK Board Officers

President	Arturo Yoshimoto
Vice President	Florence Ochi
Recording Secretary	Aki Fukuhara-Vaughn
Corresponding Secretary	Laura Lee
Treasurer	Naomi Suenaka



**2019 NYK Board Officers**  
**Laura Lee, Naomi Suenaka, Aki Vaughn,**  
**Florence Ochi, and Arturo Yoshimoto.**

**2019 President Arturo Yoshimoto** addressed the audience with best wishes for good health for the coming year.

A celebration toast was given by former president **Patrick Seki**, followed by the invocation presented by former president, **Arlene Nakamura**.

After a delicious lunch, **Florence Ochi**, announced the "Finding Your Roots" workshop on March 23rd in Torrance (see page 4 for details).

Our newest (and youngest) Board member, **Laura Lee**, gave a presentation about her years living in Yamaguchi Prefecture and working for the government. Her presentation was informative and very well received.

Laura announced that NYK now has an Instagram account (username: nanka.yamaguchi.kenjinkai) and encouraged members to follow the page. See details on page 4.

Scholarship chairman **Arlene Nakamura** introduced past scholarship recipients, **Clark Yoshida** and **Julia Fukuhara**, who gave an update of what they are doing today. Scholarships are open to graduating high school students who are descendants from Yamaguchi, Japan. **Scholarship forms are now available and can be downloaded from NYK's Facebook and Website.**

**Naomi Suenaka** next introduced our guests of honor—NYK members 80 years of age and older. Two of our seniors, **Yoshiko Monji** and **Mitsuko Yamamoto**, were recognized as exclusive members of the "over 100-year-old club".

After photos were taken of our senior honorees, **Aki Vaughn** presented a slideshow entitled, "2018 Year in Review."

The long-awaited and always fun BINGO games were next, followed by the distribution of door prizes for all. Many thanks to our young members for lending a helping hand: **Warren Fukuhara, Kysa, Manami and Remi Hayashi; Connor Hayashida; sisters Sydney and Harper Olmon; and Juli Trozzo.**

Closing remarks were provided by **Arturo Yoshimoto** who reminded everyone to attend our annual picnic in June and to hold the date for the Fall 2020 World Grand Meeting in Yamaguchi Prefecture.

The luncheon ended with smiling faces and promises to meet again next year!



## 2019 New Year Luncheon



### 2019 80 Years+ Honorees

*Front row (l to r): Roy Oban, Tomiko Nakata, Mitsuko Ono, Yoshiko Monji, Meri Miyamoto, Fujiko Matsubara, Yasuko Katayama, Ayako Fujita, Reijin Fujita, and Mitsuko Yamamoto.*

*Back row (l to r): Carol Ford, Maurine Oban, Masaharu Yamada, Henry Yasuda, Helen Yasuda, Yae Tanaka, Hideko Nagamine, Victor Miyamoto, Yoshiko Kishimoto, Toshiko Katsumoto & Kaiji Katsumoto.*





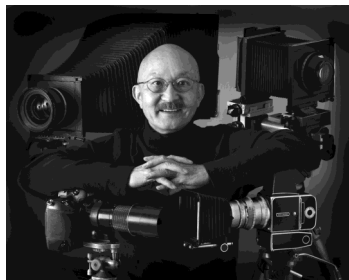


*All Photos by Bruce Thompson*

Download photos from our website:  
<http://yamaguchi-usa.org>



## In Memoriam Richard Fukuhara



Former Nanka Yamaguchi Kenjinkai president Richard Fukuhara passed away unexpectedly on December 4 of coronary heart disease. He served as NYK president in 2012, 2013, 2014 and 2018. Richard was active in the community and involved with many

organizations such as the LA Tanabata Festival, Nikkei Games, Love to Nippon, Orange Coast Optimist, LA Nagoya Sister City Affiliation, and Kokoro Taiko, to name a few.

He was a peace activist throughout his life and in 2012 he began the "Shadows for Peace; the Hiroshima and Nagasaki Experiences," forums that featured testimonies from atomic bomb survivors (hibakusha) about their suffering during and after the bombings. In 2015, he and co-producer Robert Horsting staged a production of music, song and dance celebrating the atomic bomb survivors at the Aratani Theatre.

He is survived by his two children Julia and Derek; brothers Victor, Larry and Trace; and sisters Sandi and Aki. The Fukuhara family would like to thank everyone for their support and many kind words. Richard's enthusiasm for life and his generous and compassionate nature will be greatly missed.

**Save the Date!**

**NYK Picnic June 9, 2019  
George Elder Park, Monterey Park**

## "Finding Your Roots" Workshop

On March 23, 2019, NYK is holding a "Finding Your Roots" seminar in Torrance for members and all others who are interested in learning how to find ancestors in Japan. The seminar is highly recommended by those who have attended it in the past.

The cost is \$25 per person which includes printed materials, bento lunch, snacks and drinks.

**SATURDAY MARCH 23, 2019  
10:00am to 2:00pm**

**FAITH UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
2115 West 182<sup>nd</sup> Street (at Van Ness)  
Torrance, CA 90501**

**RSVP to [Nanka.Yamaguchi.Kenjinkai@gmail.com](mailto:Nanka.Yamaguchi.Kenjinkai@gmail.com)  
By MARCH 16, 2019**

## Follow Us on Social Media

**Facebook** Yamaguchi-Kenjinkai-Los Angeles

**Instagram** Username: Nanka.Yamaguchi.Kenjinkai  
If you have any pictures you would like uploaded onto the Instagram account, please send them to [nanka.yamaguchi.kenjinkai@gmail.com](mailto:nanka.yamaguchi.kenjinkai@gmail.com) with the subject "Yamaguchi Instagram Picture." In the email, please give us your name and caption to go along with the picture.



**Website** <http://yamaguchi-usa.org>

**Email** [Nanka.Yamaguchi.Kenjinkai@gmail.com](mailto:Nanka.Yamaguchi.Kenjinkai@gmail.com)

## New Year Luncheon Special Acknowledgements



JK Yamamoto, Rafu Shimpō

Floral centerpieces from San Gabriel Nursery

Trace Fukuhara	Harper Olmon
Warren Fukuhara	Sydney Olmon
Kysa Hayashi	Michiko Otaya
Manami Hayashi	Patrick Seki
Remi Hayashi	Naomi Suenaka
Connor Hayashida	Bruce & Fusako Thompson
Atsuko Kimoto	Juli Trozzo
Yoshiko Kishimoto	Mike and Aki Vaughn
Laura Lee	Helen & Henry Yasuda
Arlene Nakamura	Arturo Yoshimoto
Florence Ochi	



## Nanka Yamaguchi Kenjinkai

### 2019 Board Officers

Arturo Yoshimoto..... President  
Florence Ochi ..... Vice President  
Aki Fukuhara-Vaughn ..... Recording Secretary  
Laura Lee ..... Corresponding Secretary  
Naomi Suenaka ..... Treasurer

2019 Board Members: Atsuko Kimoto, Arlene Nakamura, Michiko Otaya, Mike Vaughn, and Helen & Henry Yasuda.

2019 Board Advisors: Victor Fukuhara, Rev. Kiyoshi Igawa, and Patrick Seki.

Facebook Administrator:..... Steven Tani

Instagram: ..... Laura Lee

Webmaster: ..... Bruce Thompson

Newsletter Editor: ..... Arlene Nakamura

Newsletter Creator & Publisher: ..... Aki Fukuhara-Vaughn