



# Nanka Yamaguchi Kenjinkai Newsletter



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## 2020 Yamaguchi World Grand Meeting Postponed

The 5th World Grand Meeting in Yamaguchi Prefecture has been postponed due to the worldwide Covid-19 pandemic. The Yamaguchi Prefectural Government is planning a new date for this event in Autumn 2021.

The Nanka Yamaguchi Kenjinkai (NYK) WGM Committee will be contacting members when more details for 2021 are available. Special thanks to NYK's WGM Committee Chair, **Naomi Suenaka**, who has spent many hours working to coordinate travel plans for our members.

## In Memoriam Mitsuko Yamamoto



Nanka Yamaguchi Kenjinkai members were saddened to hear of the passing of **Mitsuko Yamamoto** at the age of 103. The mother of **Elaine Koyama** and former NYK President **Arlene Nakamura**, she was always present at our annual events.

Arlene wrote loving memories of her Mom in an email to the NYK Board and we are sharing it with our members:

Mom passed away on May 9 after living a remarkable life.

Despite hardships during her 103 years, she always found the good in people. We cannot recall a time when she complained about anything, even when her macular degeneration took her sight and her hearing became severely impaired. She always focused on the good stories. That was Mom.

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## 2020 NYK Scholarships Awarded

We are happy to announce the 2020 Nanka Yamaguchi Kenjinkai Scholarship recipients **Manami** and **Kysa Hayashi**, the twin daughters of NYK President **Arturo Yoshimoto**.

Both young women have established outstanding records in academics and in a variety of extracurricular activities. They have also been active participants at our NYK events throughout the years.



Twins **Kysa** (center) and **Manami Hayashi** accept their scholarship awards from NYK former President and Scholarship Chair, **Arlene Nakamura**.

Manami and Kysa have provided brief statements on their future plans:

Hello! I'm Manami Hayashi. I have been part of Nanka Yamaguchi Kenjinkai for as long as I can remember. Ever since I was little my family would attend the picnics, the New Year's luncheons and many other events. My father, Arturo Yoshimoto, is very involved in Nanka Yamaguchi Kenjinkai and enjoys bringing my siblings and me to events to help out.



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## Mitsuko Yamamoto—(Cont'd from p1)

She thought of others and always put them first... even during the last week of her life. She would wake up often to bad dreams. When we'd go to check on her, she'd say, "Oh, I'm sorry. Did I wake you up?"... followed by, "I'm OK now. You go back to bed." That was Mom.

Talk about her sense of humor. It was hilarious to watch her in action. She could even get a chuckle out of the most serious doctor...or a surprised laugh of delight from the funeral consultant when he was planning what he thought would be a solemn pre-need appointment. That was Mom.

She was a terrific cook who could improve a recipe with a simple taste and a dash of that something extra. After retirement, she was able to take classes in arts and crafts making both cutesy things and very beautifully ornate kimekomi dolls. Her love of music led her to take dance classes at ELA Community College where she, her sister and friends would show off their "College ID cards." That was Mom, too.

There are probably hundreds of other things that filled her life of 103 years. But if we had to sum her up, I think we would say that she was a woman of compassion, generosity and a pure soul. That was the essence of Mom.

Though we will miss her so much, it is her time to rest.

Thank you for all the love you showed Mom during her lifetime. She remembered each of you often.

With love,  
The Koyama & Nakamura Families

Mrs. Yamamoto leaves behind her daughters **Elaine (Frank) Koyama** and **Arlene (John) Nakamura** and grandchildren **Jason** and **Kristen Koyama (Mark H Rooney)** and **Lora & Evan Nakamura**.

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## Scholarships—(Cont'd from p1)

This fall I will be attending the University of Southern California. I plan on double majoring in Gerontology and East Asian Studies with a pre-med track. I hope to one day become a physician or pursue a career in the medical field. I also look forward to studying abroad in Japan for a year during my undergraduate experience.

Hello! My name is Kysa Hayashi and I have been a part of Nanka Yamaguchi Kenjinkai since I was a baby. You have probably seen me serving hotdogs and chili rice during the picnics. I am very thankful that I can be a part of this community. I will try to continue to come to all of the events even though I am going off to college.



This year I will be attending Babson College in Massachusetts. I will be double majoring in Entrepreneurship and Global Studies. I hope to get my MBA after my undergrad. After all my studies and my study abroad I would like to start a real estate empire.

Please join us in congratulating our 2020 scholarship recipients!



## Nanka Yamaguchi Kenjinkai

### 2020 Board Officers

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Florence Ochi.....Vice President  
Aki Fukuhara-Vaughn.....Recording Secretary  
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