

Nanka Yamaguchi Kenjinkai Newsletter



Volume XII, Issue 3

3rd Quarter 2024

NYK to Celebrate 120th Anniversary

Please join us to celebrate two very special events:

120th Anniversary Celebration and 2025 New Year Luncheon

Sunday, February 23, 2025

11:00 AM

Quiet Cannon Banquet Facilities
Skyview Room

Keynote Speaker

Ms. Tritia Toyota

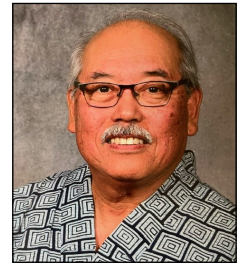
Author

Adjunct Assistant Professor at UCLA
Former KNBC-TV News Anchor

Watch your email or postal mail for details.
We will see you there!

Meet New President Bruce Kimura

Bruce Kimura was elected Nanka Yamaguchi Kenjinkai's new president in February 2024. Get to know a little about Bruce in the profile below.



Bruce Kimura

Where were you born? I was born in Los Angeles.

Where were you raised? I was raised in the East Hollywood area of L.A. During the early 1950's through the early 1970's, this area was a predominantly Japanese-American community located between downtown L.A. and Hollywood. It was also known as J-Flats to the residents of the community.

Where was your family during WWII? My father, **Fred Ichiro Kimura**, was first sent to the Pomona Assembly Center, then sent to Heart Mountain, Wyoming internment camp. My mother, **Yoshiko Tsuji**, from Washington state, was sent to the Tule Lake relocation center, then Jerome, Arkansas, and finally Heart Mountain, where they met.

What kind of work did your parents do before and after the War? Before the war, my father worked as a "schoolboy" for a doctor's family, doing the cooking and cleaning (working for room and board) while also attending school. My mother was a seamstress at a clothing manufacturer in the Seattle area. Postwar, my father married my mother at Heart Mountain in 1945 just before moving back to Los Angeles. He started working at a local produce market in Hollywood shortly afterwards and finally moved on to a larger grocery market chain. My mother worked at a garment factory until I was born, then became a housewife.

What is your occupation? I worked as a licensed optician for the Pacific Eyecare Center optometry office in West Los Angeles for 35 years before retirement in 2016. Dispensing and adjusting eyeglasses and managing the optical lab were my duties in the early years. During the later years, I managed

(Continued on page 2)

Join the NYK Board!



The Nanka Yamaguchi Kenjinkai Board invites members to join our Board of Directors. We celebrate two events a year and meetings are held via Zoom. If you are interested in becoming a Board Director, please contact Aki Fukuhara-Vaughn at akivaughn95@gmail.com.



Username: Nanka.Yamaguchi.Kenjinkai

Email: nanka.yamaguchi.kenjinkai@gmail.com OR
nankayamaguchikenjinkai@gmail.com

Meet NYK's New President—*Cont'd.*

the contact lens department. All during my optical career, I kept my original job out of high school as a grocery clerk and cashier for Ralphs Grocery Company for 46 years and retired in 2016 as well.



Bruce and Lorraine.

Are you married? Any children? I've been married to **Lorraine** for over 40 years. I have a son, **Dr. Bryan Kimura**, an optometrist working in Orange County. My daughter **Kristin** is married to **Kevin Lee**. Kristin

works as a trainer for a large recruiting firm also in Orange County.

How did you get involved with NYK? I fondly remember coming to Yamaguchi Kenjinkai summer picnics as a child because we had several families from the Yamaguchi Kenjinkai living in the neighborhood. My father helped out whenever he could and that inspired me to do the same. After retiring, I was able to attend more events and consequently Lorraine and I were eventually invited to join the board about three years ago.

Do you have a special or proud personal memories/ accomplishments you'd like to share? One of my proudest achievements is earning the Eagle Scout award after starting out as a young little Cub Scout. Another rewarding moment was when my son Bryan also became an Eagle Scout, then in 2018 when he graduated optometry school and became a doctor.

I also have a special proud moment in my heart, walking my daughter Kristin down the aisle when she got married in 2021.

Where have you traveled? Over the years, I've been able to travel across the United States to several states and neighboring countries, like Mexico and Canada. Also China and Hong Kong in the early 80's and Japan several times



Eagle Scout Bruce (right).

during my life. One of my more memorable trips was visiting Japan in 1970, as a member of a 100 Boy Scout contingent from the U.S. and camping at the base of Mount Fuji for a week for the Nippon Boy Scout World Jamboree. We did some sightseeing and stayed with host families and at temples for the remaining two

weeks of our stay. Another awe-inspiring trip was a family cruise to Alaska and land tour by train. Highly recommended for anyone's bucket list!

What do you enjoy doing in your spare time? I follow most of the local sports teams, with emphasis on the Dodgers and Ohtanisan, of course! I

volunteer weekly at our local city senior centers serving lunches and also assist the Hollywood Japanese Cultural Institute during their annual fundraising events. Also since retiring, you can find me playing Mah Jongg with family and friends, enjoying a night out at the theater and taking lessons learning to play the 'ukulele.

Anything else you want to add? After spending this past year as a member of the board, I have developed a greater appreciation for all my fellow board members, with whom I currently work, and all those of the past years. It has been a pleasure working along side such dedicated and experienced volunteers who selflessly donate their time to plan and organize our annual events. We hope for the continued support and participation of our Kenjinkai members to carry on the ideals and traditions of our founders into the future.

• • • • •



Kintai-kyo Bridge, Iwakuni



Nanka Yamaguchi Kenjinkai

2024 Board Officers

Bruce Kimura	President
Florence Ochi	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, 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