

# Nanka Yamaguchi Kenjinkai Newsletter



Volume XI, Issue 1

1st Quarter 2023

## 2023 New Year Luncheon Sunday, February 26, 2023



After a two-year hiatus due to COVID-19, Nanka Yamaguchi Kenjinkai (NYK) celebrated the 2023 New Year Luncheon at the Quiet Cannon in Montebello on February 26, 2023. The daily rains stopped for almost ninety guests who enjoyed a fun day celebrating the Year of the Rabbit.

Emcee **Aki Fukuhara-Vaughn** welcomed everyone and introduced special guests: **JK Yamamoto**, Rafu Shimpo journalist, and **Jack Williams**, who represented the United States as one of the 3-man U.S. Archery Team at the 2020 Tokyo Olympics.



**2023 NYK Board Officers**  
**President Arturo Yoshimoto**  
**VP Florence Ochi**

**Secretary Aki Fukuhara-Vaughn**  
**Treasurer Naomi Suenaka.**

**NYK President Arturo Yoshimoto** introduced New Year greetings (via video) from **Yamaguchi Governor Tsugumasa Muraoka**. **Treasurer Naomi Suenaka** then gave the 2022 Year-End Financial Report.

After the 2023 officers were approved by the member body, Arturo

thanked everyone for their support and asked for their continued support for the upcoming 120th Anniversary in 2025.

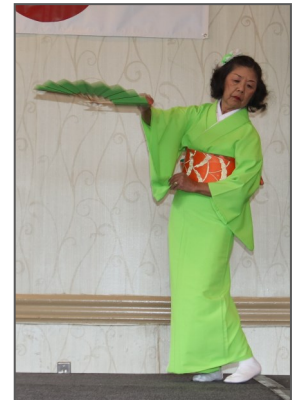
The invocation was given by Board member **Bruce Kimura** and former president **Patrick Seki** gave the Toast to signal that lunch was served.

A presentation reviewing NYK's 2020 New Year luncheon, the December 2021 5th Yamaguchi World Grand Meeting via Zoom, and the June 2022 picnic was shown during dessert.

**Vice President Florence Ochi** and **Chester Hashizume** spoke of the Yamaguchi "Finding Your Roots" (FYR) seminars. As the FYR seminar host, Chester related the difficulties he encountered trying to explore his family "Koseki" (official family register).

He encouraged members interested in learning about their family history in Japan to sign up for the seminars.

NYK member **Beverly Toyama** then provided entertainment, enchanting audiences with a dance to "Tsuzumi no Mai."



**Beverly Toyama**

**Naomi Suenaka**, committee chair of the 2023 6th World Grand Meeting (WGM), announced the **2-day WGM meeting on July 28 and 29, 2023 in Honolulu, HI.**

Board member **Lorraine Kimura** announced that the 2023 Scholarship Applications are now available for download on our Facebook page, Instagram, and Website. Past scholarship recipients from the audience were introduced and brought to the stage (see photo on pg.4).

**Aki Vaughn** introduced a very special guest, **Yosh Nakamura**, who fought in WWII with the 442nd Battalion, the highest deco-



**Special Guest Yoshio Nakamura was honored for his service as a soldier in the renowned 442nd Battalion during WWII.**

(Continued on page 2)

## New Year Luncheon—(Cont'd from p1)

rated infantry unit in U.S. history. The audience stood while Arturo Yoshimoto presented Mr. Nakamura "Go For Broke" commemorative stamps as a small token of appreciation for Mr. Nakamura's service, bravery, and patriotism.

The highlight of the day was honoring our senior members. Board member **Atsuko Kimoto** called the names of members 80 years and older (see photo on page 3).

The long-awaited Bingo games, the distribution of door prizes, and the group singing of "Sukiyaki" completed the luncheon.

Arturo delivered closing remarks and reminded everyone to attend our annual picnic on June 11 and join us at the 2023 World Grand Meeting in Honolulu, HI.

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

## 6th Yamaguchi World Grand Meeting



The Yamaguchi government began holding World Grand Meetings with the purpose of gathering worldwide Yamaguchi Kenjinkai partners to promote the foods, culture, and tourism of Yamaguchi, and to establish a Youth Exchange Program. The next World Grand Meeting will be held in:

**Honolulu, Hawaii**

**July 28 and July 29, 2023**

Day 1: Youth Exchange Program

Day 2: World Grand Meeting Celebration

Roundtrip airfare and hotel rooms will be the responsibility of the attendees.

For more information, please contact us via our NYK gmail address (see pg. 4) to the attention of Naomi Suenaka.

## 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 Mike Vaughn at [mikevaughn1997@gmail.com](mailto:mikevaughn1997@gmail.com) or call 562-592-9350.

**APPLICATIONS ARE DUE  
NO LATER THAN MAY 26, 2023.**

Recipient(s) will be awarded their scholarships at our annual picnic on Sunday, June 11, 2023.

## NYK Picnic

*New  
Location!*

**Garvey Ranch Park**

718 S. Orange Ave.

Monterey Park, CA

**Sunday, June 11, 2023**

Watch your email for details!

## Tricia Fukuhara to Star on TV Series

**Tricia Fukuhara**, the daughter of long-time NYK members **Trace** and **Joann Fukuhara**, will star as one of the four Pink Ladies in the Paramount+ series, "Grease: Rise of the Pink Ladies." The show is set prior to the events of the film "Grease" and takes place at Rydell High in the year 1954. It is a comedy and features singing and dancing—talents that Tricia has been honing since the age of 3.



The show is scheduled to premiere on **April 6, 2023**.

Tricia is the granddaughter of past NYK president **Henry Kiyoshi Fukuhara**. She is the niece of former NYK presidents **Victor Fukuhara** and **Richard Fukuhara**, and current secretary, **Aki Fukuhara-Vaughn**.

Gambatte, Tricia!



## 2023 New Year Luncheon

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2023 80 Years+ Senior Members



*All Photos by Reira Tanaka*





**Current and Former Scholarship Recipients**

*(l to r): Mark Kishimoto (1999), Lauren Tsuneishi (2017), Madison Hashibe (2022), Paige Fukuhara (2019); Kristin Kimura (2010); Clark Yoshida (2003); and Kenny Okamoto (2022).*





**2023 NYK Board Members**

*(l to r): Arturo Yoshimoto, Naomi Suenaka, Lorraine Kimura, Clark Yoshida, Atsu Kimoto, Bruce Kimura, Mike Vaughn, Aki Vaughn, and Patrick Seki. Seated: Michi Otake. Not pictured: Florence Ochi, Laura Lee, and Lisa Hernandez.*



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## New Year Luncheon Donors

### Donations over \$200.00

Arturo Yoshimoto \$1,000.00  
Lisa Hernandez \$440.00  
Michiko Otaia \$200.00

Garry & Joy Monji \$50.00

"In Honor of Yoshiko Monji"

Henry & Helen Yasuda \$50.00

### Donations up to \$49.00

### Donations of \$100—\$199.00

Patrick Seki \$130.00

Yas & Nancy Gohata \$100.00

"In Memory of Tomiko Nakata"

Jane Masuda \$100.00

Naomi Suenaka \$100.00

Margaret Yasuda \$100.00

Clark Yoshida \$100.00

Ayako Fujita \$30.00

Kiyo Fukumoto \$30.00

Linda Hayashida \$10.00

Yoshie Ishigame \$30.00

Kaz Kishimoto \$40.00

Garry Monji \$30.00

Hisako Nagamine \$30.00

Yoshio Nakamura \$30.00

Joan Nakatsu \$40.00

Mary Nakayama \$30.00

Masuhara Yamada \$30.00

### Donations of \$50.00 - \$99.00

Umeno Ford \$50.00

Kaiji & Toshiko Katsumoto \$50.00

Atsuko Kimoto \$70.00

King's Hawaiian Bakery—Rolls

Yasutomo Co.—Origami

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.

## New Year Luncheon Special Acknowledgements

Entertainer—**Beverly Toyama.**

Rafu Shimpō—**JK Yamamoto.**

Photographer—**Reira Tanaka.**

Centerpieces donated by **Naomi Suenaka,**  
**Bruce and Lorraine Kimura.**

Projector provided by **Trace Fukuhara.**

Origami donated by American KUSA Corporation  
(dba Yasutomo) - Procured by **Wendy McGuire.**

Hawaiian Rolls donated by King's Hawaiian Bakery  
Procured by **Florence Ochi.**

Warren Fukuhara  
Catherine Hayashida  
Atsuko Kimoto  
Bruce Kimura  
Lorraine Kimura  
Kristin Kimura  
Kevin Lee  
Laura Lee  
Florence Ochi

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Michiko Otaia  
Patrick Seki  
Naomi Suenaka  
Tricia Tao  
Aki Vaughn  
Mike Vaughn  
Clark Yoshida  
Fred Yoshida  
Arturo Yoshimoto

## 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)

## 14th NKK Bowling Tournament

The **Nanka Kenjinkai Kyogikai** (the all Southern California Kenjinkai Association) held its 14th Annual Bowling Tournament at the Fountain Valley Bowling Alley in November 2022.

Nanka Yamaguchi Kenjinkai was represented by **Trace and Joann Fukuhara** and **Aki Fukuhara-Vaughn.**



After 3 fun, fun games of bowling, all teams gathered for a pizza lunch, followed by presentations of trophies and prizes for the top teams and top individual bowlers. We are happy to report that the NYK team did not place last again and "win" the "Best Effort" title, but improved to place next to last!



## Nanka Yamaguchi Kenjinkai

### 2023 Board Officers

Arturo Yoshimoto ..... President  
Florence Ochi ..... Vice President  
Aki Fukuhara-Vaughn ..... Secretary  
Naomi Suenaka ..... Treasurer  
Laura Lee ..... Yamaguchi Government Liaison  
Mike Vaughn ..... Legal Counsel

**2023 Board Members:** Lisa Hernandez, Atsuko Kimoto, Bruce Kimura, Lorraine Kimura, Michiko Otaia, and Clark Yoshida.

**2023 Board Advisors:** Victor Fukuhara, Kiyoshi Igawa, Patrick Seki, Helen and Henry Yasuda.

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