



**DISCUSSION AND BOOK SIGNING WITH JANICE P. NIMURA**  
**AUTHOR OF "DAUGHTERS OF THE SAMURAI"**



**DATE:**  
**MONDAY, MAY 11, 7PM**

**VENUE:**

**THE JAPAN FOUNDATION, LOS ANGELES**  
**(5700 WILSHIRE BLVD. # 100, LOS ANGELES, CA 90036)**

**STREET PARKING IS AVAILABLE NEAR JFLA. [CLICK HERE FOR PARKING INFO](#)**  
**(NO PARKING VALIDATIONS PROVIDED)**

**ADMISSION: FREE**

In 1871, five young girls were sent by the Japanese government to the United States. Their mission: learn Western ways and return to help nurture a new generation of enlightened men to lead Japan.

Raised in traditional samurai households during the turmoil of civil war, three of these unusual ambassadors—Sutematsu Yamakawa, Shige Nagai, and Ume Tsuda—grew up as typical American schoolgirls. Upon their arrival in San Francisco they became celebrities, their travels and traditional clothing exclaimed over by newspapers across the nation. As they learned English and Western customs, their American friends grew to love them for their high spirits and intellectual brilliance.

The passionate relationships they formed reveal an intimate world of cross-cultural fascination and connection. Ten years later, they returned to Japan—a land grown foreign to them—determined to revolutionize women’s education.

Based on in-depth archival research in Japan and in the United States, including decades of letters from between the three women and their American host families, *Daughters of the Samurai* is beautifully, cinematically written, a fascinating lens through which to view an extraordinary historical moment.

**A PREVIEW OF THE BOOK (VIMEO) - [HTTPS://VIMEO.COM/113928731](https://vimeo.com/113928731)**

**ABOUT THE AUTHOR**



Two years after graduating from Yale, **Janice P. Nimura** moved from her native Manhattan to her new husband’s native Tokyo. Over the course of three years in Japan—where she worked as an editor and wrote for English-language newspapers—she became both proficient in Japanese and comfortable in her un-dreamed-of role as daughter-in-law to a Japanese family.

Upon returning to New York she earned a master’s degree in East Asian studies at Columbia with a focus on 19th-century Japanese history, and continued to work as an editor and writer, contributing book reviews to newspapers including the *New York Times*, the *Washington Post*, the *Los Angeles Times*, the *Chicago Tribune*, and *Newsday*.

Nimura lives in New York with her husband and two children.

© Lucy Schaeffer

**THIS EVENT IS CO-ORGANIZED BY:**



Upcoming Events

JAPANEMA = Japanese Cinema

Arts & Culture Grants

Rental Exhibitions

Past Events: Lecture Series



Past Events: Exhibitions



Past Events: Others



Lights, Camera, Japanese! Become a Voice Over Star

Japanese Workshop: Samurai Acting

Workshop: Create Your Own Kanji & Calligraphy

Butoh Workshop by Dance Maestro Mushimaru Fujieda

An Evening with Kabuki Actor Kyozo Nakamura

Lecture & Demonstration: Samurai Spirit Alive

Words Can't Go There: John Kaizan Neptune Shakuhachi Live in Los Angeles

Workshop: Action in Japanese

Evening Time Wellness Wednesday (Yoga & Meditation)

Change the World with Onigiri 2018

Lecture & Demonstration: Noh Masks

Ask Marty

TATAKE TAKE: Let's Play Bamboo Beat!

Hands on with Japanese Handmade Paper

Bamboo Music

Japan Korea Miso

Rakugo Sankyo

Takahashi Hiroko

New Year's Cuisine

One Piece Kabuki

Time After Time

Takeo Kawaguchi - SLOW BODY

Street-style Kendama

Perspectives on Risque Cinema

Cinema Kabuki

Cinema Kabuki

R&R Library Lounge

Java and Jazz Library Lounge

Change the World With Onigiri

Japanese Design Today

Kyogen Performance/Workshop

Daidengaku Dance Workshop

Mashi Murakami Meet & Greet

Daughters of the Samurai

One-Man Kabuki Storyteller

Zen Calligraphy Workshop

Rakugo

The Great Passage

Ai Kuwabara Trio Project

Japanese Kites

Hachi - A Dog's Tale

Japan Film Festival

Director's Talk

Nikkatsu at 100

Cast Me If You Can

Abeya Tsugaru-Shamisen

Arigato From Japan

Past Events: Japanema (PDF)



[Headquarters](#)

[New York Office](#)

[Center for Global Partnership](#)

[Volunteer](#)

[ボランティア募集](#)

[Japan Related Links](#)

[Job Openings \(Updated\)](#)

5700 Wilshire blvd, Suite 100

Los Angeles, CA 90036

P. 323.761.7510

---

[Annual Report](#)

© 2019 The Japan Foundation, Los Angeles

[Web Design.](#)