

JANICE P. NIMURA

AUTHOR - *DAUGHTERS OF THE SAMURAI*

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*.

Several years ago, a slim green volume titled *A Japanese Interior*, by Alice Mabel Bacon, caught her eye. Within its pages, Nimura discovered a sharp-eyed account of an unmarried woman who had lived for an extended period in Tokyo in the late 1880s. Bacon's memoir led her to uncover the entwined lives of Sutematsu Yamakawa Oyama, Bacon's foster sister and Vassar's first Japanese graduate; Ume Tsuda, whose pioneering women's English school Alice helped to launch; and Shige Nagai Uriu, the third of the little girls who arrived with the Iwakura Mission in 1872 and grew up in America.

In *Daughters of the Samurai*, Nimura reveals the transformative power of cross-cultural connections through the lives of these women – and how they led what amounted to a revolution in women's education in Japan. Nimura currently lives in New York with her husband and two children.

JENNIFER BUTLER

FOUNDER - JAST YOUNG PROFESSIONALS AND STUDY
ABROAD COORDINATOR, JACKSON STATE UNIVERSITY

A Jackson, MS native, Butler's childhood fascination with Japan led her to pursue Asian Studies and Japanese at The University of Alabama and later a master's degree in Japanese Studies from The University of Sheffield (UK), with a research focus on International Education Policy in Japan. Prior to joining Jackson State University's International Program Office, her early career highlights included serving as Assistant Language Teacher in Hamamatsu, Shizuoka (Japan) under the JET Program and as Cultural Programs Coordinator at the Consulate-General of Japan in Nashville. During her five-year tenure in Nashville, Butler also founded and co-chaired JAST's Young Professionals Program, designed to connect and serve Middle Tennessee's "under 40s" with interests in US-Japan relations and international exchange opportunities.

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WASHI ART BOXES BY CRICKET MESSERSMITH

Washi is decorative handmade paper from Japan processed from fibrous plant fibers using a centuries-old technique. After living in Japan, Cricket Messersmith began decorating boxes with washi to add a Japanese influence to her home. Now living in Nashville, she sells her work exclusively at The Frist & the Indianapolis Museum of Art. Messersmith's boxes, further embellished by Melissa Spaid of Melissa Marie Floral Designs, are featured as centerpieces for today's networking luncheon.

WELCOME TO
INTREPID WOMEN
ON THE GLOBAL STAGE:
AN (UNEXPECTED) SAMURAI LEGACY
AT THE
JAPAN-AMERICA SOCIETY
OF TENNESSEE'S

THIRD ANNUAL
WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP FORUM
& NETWORKING LUNCHEON

FEATURING
JANICE P. NIMURA,
AUTHOR OF *DAUGHTERS OF THE SAMURAI*
IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE EXHIBITION
**SAMURAI:
THE WAY OF THE
WARRIOR**

10:30 A.M. – 2:00 P.M.

PROGRAM

10:30 A.M. & 11:00 A.M.

OPTIONAL DOCENT-LED EXPERIENCE OF
SAMURAI:
THE WAY OF THE WARRIOR
EXHIBITION

10:30 A.M. – NOON

REGISTRATION

11:00 A.M.

AUDITORIUM OPENS FOR
INFORMAL NETWORKING
REFRESHMENTS
DISPLAYS & BOOK SIGNING

NOON

WELCOME REMARKS
LEIGH WIELAND,
CEO, JAPAN-AMERICA SOCIETY OF TN

SUSAN EDWARDS,
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND CEO,
FRIST CENTER FOR THE VISUAL ARTS

12:25 P.M.
NETWORKING LUNCHEON

KEYNOTE REMARKS

“INTREPID WOMEN
ON THE GLOBAL STAGE:
AN (UNEXPECTED) SAMURAI LEGACY”

FEATURING

JANICE P. NIMURA
AUTHOR OF DAUGHTERS OF THE SAMURAI

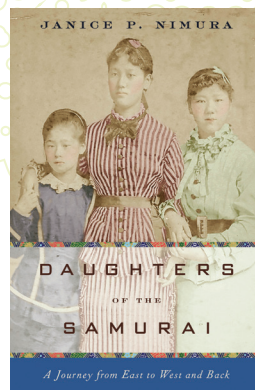
MODERATOR

JENNIFER BUTLER
FOUNDER – JAST YOUNG PROFESSIONALS
AND STUDY ABROAD COORDINATOR,
JACKSON STATE UNIVERSITY

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS



JENNIFER R. BUTLER



JANICE P. NIMURA

1:15 P.M.

CLOSING REMARKS & WRAP-UP

1:30 P.M.

OPTIONAL DOCENT-LED TOUR OF
SAMURAI:
THE WAY OF THE WARRIOR
NETWORKING & DISPLAYS RESUME
BROWSE GIFT SHOP

2:00 P.M.

PROGRAM CONCLUDES

GUESTS ARE ALSO INVITED TO EXPLORE
THE FRIST CENTER AT THEIR LEISURE



JAPAN-AMERICA
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TENNESSEE, INC.

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