



Nanka Yamaguchi Kenjinkai Newsletter



Volume VII, Issue 1

1st Quarter 2018

NYK Members Welcome in 2018

Our 2018 Nanka Yamaguchi Kenjinkai New Year Luncheon was held on Sunday, February 25th. Though the weather was cold, we are happy to report that attendance was up by almost 15%!

Emcee **Aki Fukuhara-Vaughn** welcomed everyone and introduced President **Arturo Yoshimoto**. Following his greeting, Arturo called the General Meeting to order. Names of the 2018 NYK Board Nominees were announced and approved by the membership. Treasurer **Naomi Suenaka** gave the financial report.

2018 NYK Board Officers

President, **Richard Fukuhara** Vice President, **Florence Ochi**
Secretary, **Aki Vaughn** Treasurer, **Naomi Suenaka**



2018 NYK Board Officers

L-R: Treasurer Naomi Suenaka, Secretary Aki Fukuhara-Vaughn, Vice President Florence Ochi, and President Richard Fukuhara.

Arturo then turned the meeting over to the new president **Richard Fukuhara**. Richard presented Arturo with a plaque and thanked him for his 3 years of outstanding service, which included his extraordinary contributions to the 2015 Yamaguchi Kenjinkai World Grand Meeting in Los Angeles.

Richard welcomed all with Happy New Year greetings and announced June 10th as the date of the picnic to be held at Monterey Park's George Elder Park.

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NYK Picnic - June 10

Once again, the NYK picnic will be held in Monterey Park at George Elder Park. Please mark your calendars!

When: Sunday, June 10, 2018 (1 wk before Father's Day)

Where: **George Elder Park**
1950 Wilcox (corner of Elmgate)
Monterey Park

Time: 11:00 AM—3:00 PM

The park is **easy to find**, has **plenty of parking**, jungle gyms for the kiddies and tennis courts (the tennis courts are on a first-come, first-serve basis).

We'll have races and games for the kids and adults, Karaoke, raffle prizes and much, much more! As always, bento boxes will be on sale.

Watch your mailbox for raffle tickets and additional information. We hope to see you there!

2018 NYK Scholarship Applications



Scholarship applications are **NOW AVAILABLE** to graduating high school seniors who are descendants of Yamaguchi-Ken.

The forms are computer fillable which may be a preferable way to complete the documents.

They can also be completed by hand.

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:
Scholarship Chairperson: **Arlene Nakamura**
Email: 626-221-4271

APPLICATIONS ARE DUE MAY 25, 2018.

The recipient(s) will be awarded their scholarships at our annual picnic on Sunday, June 10, 2018.

2018 Shinnen-Enkai Photos

PHOTOS BY
RICHARD FUKUHARA



2018 Senior Honorees

Front row (l-r): Roy Oban, Tomiko Nakata, Hisako Nagamine, Mitsuko Ono, Meriko Miyamoto, Yasuko Katayama, Mitsuko Yamamoto, Haruko Morikawa, and Yoshiko Monji.
Back row (l-r): Helen Yasuda, Umeno Ford, Yae Tanaka, Maurine Oban, Ayako Fujita, Reijin Fujita, Yoshiko Kishimoto, Kiyoshi Igawa, Henry Yasuda, Hideo Morikawa, Takashi Miyamoto, Kaiji Katsumoto and Toshiko Katsumoto.



2018 Shinnen-enkai (Cont'd from p1)



Outgoing NYK President Arturo Yoshimoto receives a plaque of appreciation from 2018 NYK President Richard Fukuhara.

Naomi, co-chair of the Scholarship Committee, announced that the 2018 scholarship applications are available on our website and Facebook page. She introduced one of our past scholarship recipients, **Ann Tani** (daughter of **Steven** and **Millie Tani**), who said a few words. Another former scholarship recipient **Nicole Oshima** (granddaughter of **Helen** and **Henry Yasuda**) was unable to attend. However, she sent a video of herself thanking NYK for her scholarship and spoke of her plans for the future.

Aki introduced NYK member **William Christopher Ford** and his two young female assistants, **Nivaeh** and **Kalia**, who wowed the audience with martial arts demonstrations.



William Christopher Ford demonstrates some awesome martial arts moves and receives a kick to the stomach (ouch!) from his student, Nivaeh.

Before lunch **Henry Yasuda** led everyone in a toast and **Rev. Kiyoshi Igawa** delivered the invocation.

Following a delicious meal, the highlight of our annual new year's luncheon—the honoring of members 80 and 80+ years of age—was announced by Naomi. Twenty-two seniors were honored with a gift bag created by **Millie** and **Steven Tani**. The Tanis, who announced their retirement from the NYK Board in Decem-

ber of 2017, designed and created the gifts for the seniors (see photo on page 5). To honor their contribution over the past 7 years, the Board presented the Tanis with a beautiful plant.

A very informative slide show, “An Historical Review of Nanka Yamaguchi Kenjinkai”, was created and presented by Richard.

Naomi next hosted the popular and always fun Bingo games with the assistance of the **Hayashi** sisters, **Kysa**, **Manami** and **Remi**. Door prizes were then distributed to all attendees by our NYK youngsters.



Some of the lucky winners at the Nakata & Monji table!

NYK member **Larry Fukuhara** volunteered to set up a “FREE” table with items such as DVD documentaries, pins and keychains for anyone to take home. He also had members play “Guess how many eucalyptus seed pods are in the jar?”, and **Mrs. Hisako Nagamine** won with the closest guess with a little over 900. Honorable Mention went to NYK Board Member **Atsu Kimoto** with a guess of ten thousand.

To close out the luncheon, Aki announced that Yamaguchi, Japan is planning its next World Grand Meeting (WGM) in the fall of 2020. Yamaguchi kenjinkai members from all over the world will gather in Yamaguchi, Japan for a few days of meetings and fun events. At the 2011 WGM, the NYK delegation sang “California Here We Come” at one of the meetings. Aki changed the lyrics to include areas of Yamaguchi. Hopefully, the 2020 NYK delegation will be able to sing it at one of the events. This newly revised edition was introduced at the luncheon and everyone quickly picked up the lyrics and sang it beautifully!

Kiyoshi Igawa and **Patrick Seki** closed out the program by leading everyone in singing NYK's signature song, “Sukiyaki”.

The beautiful centerpieces, potted clematis plants, donated by **San Gabriel Nursery** (thank you **Mr. Saburo Ishihara**), were taken home by one lucky person at each table. Richard thanked everyone for attending and wished one and all a wonderful 2018, and with hopes to see everyone at the picnic!

ATTENTION NYK ARTISTS!

NYK Seeking Design Ideas for the 2018 Los Angeles Tanabata Festival “Spirit of Togetherness”

NYK is planning to enter a kazari in the 2018 Los Angeles Tanabata Festival. The theme this year is “Spirit of Togetherness”.

The 1st Place winner in each category will receive \$50 and a specially designed framed award. The Founder's Award will be awarded to the overall winner of the 1st Place winners and receives an additional \$50 prize. The winner of the People's Choice Award which will be voted by Festival Attendees on Saturday, Aug. 11, will also receive \$50.

Last year, NYK took 5th Place in the “Kenjinkai” category. The theme was “Hero”. Our design was a full-bodied superhero, using the Yamaguchi mascot, Choruru. We found that the top winning designs used just a torso with loads of streamers (*see photo below*). Also pictured below is the NYK 2014 1st Place winner in that year's “Wishing Upon the Stars” themed design.

If you have ideas for a design based on the theme “Spirit of Togetherness”, contact Aki Fukuhara-Vaughn at 562-234-5702 or via email at Nanka.Yamaguchi.Kenjinkai@gmail.com. Let us know by the end of April.

Opening Ceremony Kazari Award Presentation
Nisei Week Festival, Little Tokyo, in front of MOCA
Friday, August 10, 5pm

Open Voting on Saturday, August 11 for People's Choice
Nisei Week Festival, Little Tokyo, in front of MOCA
Sunday, August 12 –“People's Choice” Award Announced

CATEGORIES

- Government
- Business
- Families / Individuals
- Schools, Churches, Temples & Non-Profit Organizations
- Kenjinkai
- Manga / Anime



2017 1st Place Winner
Nanka Tochigi Kenjinkai



2014 1st Place
Winner (NYK)

NYK Member News

PEGGY MIKUNI

Peggy Mikuni recently received 88 beautiful roses from **Mr. Hideya Sadayasu**, President of The Imperial Hotel, Tokyo, in commemoration of her 88th birthday. Peggy had it placed in the lobby of the Terraces at Park Marino where she resides. Congratulations, Peggy!



*Peggy Mikuni poses with 88 beautiful roses
in honor of her 88th birthday.*

Student Essay, Poetry and Video Contest

Go For Broke National Education Center has released information on their **2018 High School & College Student Essay, Poetry, & Video Contest!**

The contest is open to all high school (grades 9-12) and college (undergraduate and graduate) students.

- **\$1,000 (each)** to the top 6 winners
- **\$200 (each)** to the 6 second prize winners of each category
- **\$100 (each)** to the 6 third prize winners of each category

The 1st place winners will receive tickets to attend the 17th Annual Evening of Aloha Gala Dinner on September 8th at The Westin Bonaventure Hotel & Suites in Los Angeles.

All entries are due by July 1, 2018.

Go For Broke National Education Center (GFBNEC) supports the legacy of Japanese American World War II veterans, who served their country at a time when the United States denied their civil rights.

Details about the contest can be found using the link below:
http://www.goforbroke.org/news/annual_events/studentcontest/index.php

Questions? Contact Megan Keller at (310) 222-5710, or via email at studentcontest@goforbroke.org

2018 New Year's Luncheon Special Acknowledgments

- Centerpieces from San Gabriel Nursery
Saburo Ishihara
- JK Yamamoto, Rafu Shimpō English Staff Writer
- William Christopher Ford and his assistants,
Nivaeh and Kalia

NYK Members

Larry Fukuhara, Richard Fukuhara, Warren Fukuhara,
Kysa, Manami, and Remi Hayashi,
Rev. Kiyoshi Igawa, Atsuko Kimoto,
Yoshiko Kishimoto, Arlene Nakamura, Florence Ochi,
Michi Ota, Patrick Seki, Naomi Suenaka,
Millie & Steven Tani, Mike & Aki Vaughn,
Helen & Henry Yasuda, and Arturo Yoshimoto.

Thank you for all your help!



Like Us on Facebook

The Nanka Yamaguchi Kenjinkai Facebook page, created and administered by **Steven** and **Millie Tani**, is not only loaded with information about past and upcoming NYK events, photos and newsletters, but also features the latest news about Yamaguchi, Japan and the Nikkei community. Check it out for more photos from the February 25th New Year's Luncheon.



Yamaguchi-Kenjinkai-Los Angeles

Troy Ishikawa sent in a link to a video about the city of Yanai and the Goldfish lanterns. (The link will be available until Oct. 2, 2018)

Check it out!

<https://www3.nhk.or.jp/nhkworld/en/vod/journeys/2007310/>

Website: <http://yamaguchi-usa.org>



NYK Presidents at the New Year Luncheon

Arturo Yoshimoto (2015-2017); Patrick Seki (2004-2005); Victor Fukuhara (2006-2008); Arlene Nakamura (2009-2011; not pictured), Richard Fukuhara (2012-2014 & 2018-); Hideaki Tanaka (2003); Rev. Kiyoshi Igawa (2000-2002), and Henry Yasuda (1997-1999).



Senior gifts created by Millie and Steven Tani.
Visit our Facebook page for more New Year luncheon photos by Steven Tani.



Nanka Yamaguchi Kenjinkai

2018 Board Officers

Richard Fukuhara President
Richard@fukuharafoto.com

Florence Ochi Vice President
fochi@att.net

Aki Fukuhara-Vaughn Secretary
aki@vaughnlawoffice.com

Naomi Suenaka Treasurer
nsuenaka@gmail.com

Board Members

Atsuko Kimoto, Arlene Nakamura, Michiko Ota, Mike Vaughn, Helen & Henry Yasuda, and Arturo Yoshimoto.

Advisors

Victor Fukuhara, Rev. Kiyoshi Igawa, and Patrick Seki.

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