



Nanka Yamaguchi Kenjinkai Newsletter



Volume II, Issue 5

Season's
Greetings

December 2013

General Meeting & New Year's Party Sunday, January 26, 2014

Please join us at a luncheon celebration to welcome in 2014, the year of the Horse! Here are the details:

Date: Sunday, January 26, 2014

Time: 11:00 AM

Location: Quiet Cannon Banquet Facility
901 Via San Clemente
Montebello, CA

Plenty of FREE parking available.

Cost Per Person: \$30.00 (to be paid at the luncheon)
Members 80 years and older will be our honored guests.

Meal choice (please select one):

- ☐ Prime Rib
- ☐ Chicken and Salmon
- ☐ Vegetarian

Please RSVP your attendance AND your meal choice NO LATER THAN Wednesday, January 15, 2014 by contacting:

Japanese: Yoshiko Kishimoto at (626) 287-8600.

English: Arlene Nakamura at (626) 221-4271
or email at arlenenakamura@gmail.com.

If you need transportation or know of someone who needs transportation, please let us know and we'll try to make accommodations.

There will be a general meeting before lunch when we will vote for our 2014 officers. We will also enjoy a DVD review of our activities in 2013. Following lunch, there will be karaoke, and the always fun, Bingo games.

Thank you for your continued support of our kenjinkai. We hope you can join us!

Nanka Kenjinkai Kyogikai Bowling Tournament

On Sunday, November 3, the all Southern California Kenjinkai (known as the Nanka Kenjinkai Kyogikai) held its 3rd annual bowling tournament at the AMF Bowl-O-Drome in Torrance.

This year our club was well represented by two teams. **Team A won the "Team Total Score" of 2160** and **Pei Eto** won the overall high score with 624. Congratulations to all our bowlers--we are proud of you!!!

Congratulations!!!



Yamaguchi Kenjinkai Team A
WON the "Team Total Score" with a 2160 score!
(l to r): NYK President **Richard Fukuhara** holding the Team's Trophy; Bowlers: **Pei Eto** (high scorer with 624), **Kevin Eto**, **Sam Nakata**, and **Russ Yamaguchi**.



Yamaguchi Team B
(l to r): **Richard Fukuhara**, **Yoshi Nakaoki**, **Judy Shigemitsu**, and **Irene Uyeda**.

Did You Know?

The Igawas Dine with the Mayor

Kiyoshi and Wakiko Igawa recently traveled to Japan and enjoyed dinner with **Iwakuni Mayor Fukuda** while visiting Yamaguchi-Ken.



Front (l to r): Two childhood friends of Wakiko's, Mrs. Kyoko Kawamura and Mrs. Michie Nagaki, Iwakuni Mayor Fukuda, Wakiko Igawa; Back: Kiyoshi Igawa in the center, flanked by his relatives, Mr. and Mrs. Hiroshi Fujimoto.
###

NYK Author Book Signing Event January 1

We are thrilled to announce that our NYK member, **Lora Nakamura**, has been invited to participate in a book signing event at **Kinokuniya Bookstore in Weller Court**. She will be available to sign her newly published book, "The Bonsai Babes: A Love Story," on **New Year's Day from 12:00-3:00 pm**. There will also be many festivities taking place in Little Tokyo that day which you can check out at <http://www.japanese-city.com/calendar/events/index.php?eID=31617>.



About the book: "The Bonsai Babes: A Love Story is a tale of two little girls, the challenges they face, and the magical outcome they experience as they allow love to enter their lives. Luna is a Mexican American girl from Los Angeles who dreams of being a professional soccer player. Nana is a Japanese American girl from the San Gabriel Valley who dreams of realizing her psychic potential. They grew up worlds apart, but their chance encounter leaves them forever changed..."

About the author: "Lora Nakamura, an MSW and former teacher with a BA in Spanish Literature, draws from both her personal experiences and those as a former educator and social worker to write her first book, which intends to offer hope to those facing obstacles and loss, as well as encouragement to those already hopeful."

Lora is grateful that many NYK members have generously supported her in her fundraising efforts to bring this book to fruition. She looks forward to seeing you at the book signing.

###

William Ford Receives Honor

NYK member, **William Christopher Ford**, was recognized on September 7, 2013 by the Martial Arts History Museum for



*Photo from
www.kaizendojo.com*

Outstanding Achievements in his field. Sensei Ford is a 5th-degree black belt in Okinawan Shorin Ryu karate (Kobayashi Ryu) and received the honor for his nearly 40 years of dedication to the study, practice and teaching of martial arts. (See *Rafu Shimpō* article, Dec 10, 2013, Sports—link below).

William, whose mother, **Mrs. Umeno Ford**, is from Yamaguchi-ken, was born in Long Beach and raised in Torrance, Gardena and Australia. Sensei Ford is the chief instructor at the Kaizen Dojo in Torrance and is talented in other fields as well. He has represented our club in the Nanka Kenjinkai Kyogikai Talent Show with his Japanese dance and, as an actor, appeared in the movie "Karate Kid 3". He currently performs as "Cut-Throat Jack, the Red Pirate" at Pirate's Dinner Adventure in Buena Park, CA.



*Performing in the
Nanka Kenjinkai
Kyogikai
2012 Talent Show.*

<http://www.rafu.com/2013/12/sensei-william-ford-recognized-by-martial-arts-history-museum-for-outstanding-achievements>.

###

Richard Fukuhara Meets Yamaguchi Dignitaries

NYK Board President, **Richard Fukuhara**, traveled to Yamaguchi in October and met with the Yamaguchi Governor's International Division to discuss the planning for the **2015 Los Angeles Yamaguchi World Grand Meeting**. That evening Richard was hosted by Yamaguchi Japan American Society Director and Secretary General, **Takeharu Koga**.



(l to r): Sachie Irie, Councilwoman; Masayuki Matsumoto, Asian Industrial & Technical Development Assn. Chairman; Richard Fukuhara; Takeharu Koga, Yamaguchi Japan American Society Dir. & Secretary General; Hayashi Shoichi, Dir. of International Div. Yamaguchi Prefecture; and Ms. Arai.

2013 Nanka Kenjinkai Kyogikai Talent Show

The 2013 Nanka Kenjinkai Kyogikai (all kenjinkai) Talent Show was held at the Aratani Japan America Theatre on Sunday, October 6, and featured many talented acts of all ages from Southern California kenjinkai.



Andressa Yuri Matsuda

The Nanka Yamaguchi Kenjinkai selected **Andressa Yuri Matsuda** to represent our club at this annual event and she wowed the audience with her fantastic voice! NYK member, **Patrick Seki**, who represented us a few years ago in a performance as the blind swordsman, Zatoichi, styled Andressa in a beautiful kimono. Andressa dazzled and commanded the stage with her professionalism. We are so very grateful to Andressa for sharing her talents!

Talent from the other clubs impressed this reporter as well (see below and next column). We highly recommend that you try to attend next year's show—we promise that you will be thoroughly entertained!



Hokkaido Kenjinkai
Jazz singer, *Takako Uemura* with
Michael Hirano Carlos
on ukulele



Hiroshima Kenjinkai
Mark Sono



Okinawa Kenjinkai
Akiko Yamauchi & Joseph Jones



Hiroshima Kenjinkai
Marci Asao



Kagoshima Kenjinkai

If you know a member who has recently graduated from high school / college or who has been recently honored or has news to share, please let us know and we'll publish it in this newsletter. Contact Arlene Nakamura at arlenenakamura@gmail.com or Aki Vaughn at aki@vaughnlawoffice.com or call 562-234-5702.



Nanka Yamaguchi Kenjinkai

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Photos by Richard Fukuhara, Arlene Nakamura & Aki Vaughn.

Happy Holidays!



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.



www.facebook.com

Yamaguchi-Kenjinkai-Los Angeles