



Nanka Yamaguchi Kenjinkai Newsletter



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December 2015



NYK Welcomes 4th Yamaguchi Kenjinkai World Grand Meeting Delegates to L.A.



The Yamaguchi Kenjinkai World Grand Meetings have been held every four-five years with the purpose of gathering Yamaguchi Kenjinkai partners to establish a mutual understanding between the Yamaguchi prefecture and the kenjinkais. It is

also an opportunity to promote the food, culture, and tourism of Yamaguchi, Japan.

The first World Grand Meeting was held in Yamaguchi, Japan; the 2nd in San Paulo, Brazil; and the 3rd in Yamaguchi. When Los Angeles was chosen as the 4th World Grand Meeting (WGM) site, Nanka Yamaguchi Kenjinkai (NYK) Board members worked diligently for over a year with Yamaguchi, Japan's WGM event liaison, **Shinya Iwane**, to help plan the events.



**Yamaguchi Governor
Tsugumasa Muraoka and
officials arrive at LAX.**

The 2015 World Grand Meeting began on Thursday, November 12, with the arrival of Yamaguchi government officials led by **Yamaguchi Governor Tsugumasa Muraoka** and **Yamaguchi Prefectural Assembly Chairman, Motonari Hatahara**.

On Friday, November 13, Yamaguchi kenjinkai members from Brazil (21 delegates), Peru (19), Mexico (9), Honolulu (2), Kauai (3) and Sacramento (2), arrived in Los Angeles.

A brief summary of the meetings and events are on the following pages:

(Continued on page 2)

New Year's Party—February 21, 2016

Please join us at a luncheon celebration to welcome in 2016, the year of the Monkey, on Sunday, February 21. There will be a general meeting before lunch when we will vote for 2016 officers. We will honor our senior members aged 80+ (as guests of the luncheon), enjoy a DVD review of 2015 activities, Karaoke, Bingo, and raffle prizes.



Save the Date!

Sunday, February 21, 2016

11:00 AM

Quiet Cannon

901 Via San Clemente

Montebello

Watch your email in January 2016 for more information.

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2015 Bowling Tournament Results

The Japanese Prefectural Association of Southern California (JPASC), formerly known as the Nanka Kenjinkai Kyogikai, held its 9th Annual Bowling Tournament in Torrance where local kenjinkai members bowled in friendly competition.

Representing NYK were: **Kevin Eto, Pei Eto, Sam Nakata** and **Russ Yamaguchi**, and once again, Nanka Yamaguchi Kenjinkai garnered trophies and titles. Congratulations to Kevin Eto for winning 1st Place in the Male Division with a three-game total of 661 and to the NYK team who took 3rd Place with a 3-game total of 2,098!

Congratulations, NYK Bowling Team!



**Kevin Eto's 1st Place Trophy and pictured above:
Pei Eto, Russ Yamaguchi, Kevin Eto and Sam Nakata.**

4th Yamaguchi Kenjinkai World Grand Meeting—*cont'd from p1*

Friday, November 13

Meet & Greet City Officials & Businesses

Governor Muraoka and Yamaguchi Assembly Chairman Hatahara led a group of nine Yamaguchi government officials to meet with the **Los Angeles City Council** and **Richard Jacobs, Executive Vice Mayor of Los Angeles** (see photo on page 3). Vice Mayor Jacobs presented a framed “Welcome Proclamation” from **Mayor Eric Garcetti** to Governor Muraoka.

At the invitation of **Japan Consul General Harry Horinouchi** and **Madame Sabine Horinouchi**, the Yamaguchi officials enjoyed lunch at the Consul General’s residence (photo on page 3).

After lunch, the officials met with executives of the **Japanese Chamber of Commerce, Japanese Business Association, Japanese American Society, Japanese Prefectural Association of Southern California, Japan National Tourism Organization (JNTO), and Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO)** at the Tom Bradley Tower located in the City Hall (photo on page 3).

Welcome Reception

Later in the evening, NYK hosted a welcome reception at the Doubletree Hotel. Each international delegation was introduced by emcee, **Patrick Seki**. Hors d’oeuvres and dessert were served, several guests sang Karaoke, and new friendships were made.

Saturday, November 14 Representatives’ Meetings



Yamaguchi kenjinkai presidents and their representatives met with Governor Muraoka to discuss a variety of topics such as: the cultural activities and food industries in Yamaguchi; possible scholarships available to Yamaguchi Kenjinkais; the creation of new kenjinkais in Taiwan; and the next World Grand Meeting hosted by Yamaguchi Japan in 2020, the year of the Tokyo Olympics.

Saturday, November 14

World Grand Meeting—Part I

The World Grand Meeting and 110th NYK Anniversary celebration were held at the Doubletree Hotel. Hosted by Yamaguchi, Japan, the events were attended by 200 people. Co-emcees, **Shoichi Hayashi** (Yamaguchi International Division Director) and **Aki Fukuhara-Vaughn** (NYK Board Secretary), introduced NYK’s favorite taiko group, **Kokoro Taiko**, who gave a rousing performance to open the first portion of the program.

Governor Muraoka welcomed everyone to the event and presented a Powerpoint about Yamaguchi. Welcome speeches were given by Japan Consul General Harry Horinouchi and Yamaguchi Assembly Chairman, Motonari Hatahara, who also gave the sake toast after the sake barrel-breaking ceremony (photo on page 4).

A Yamaguchi kenjinkai representative from Brazil, Peru, Mexico, Honolulu, Kauai and Sacramento gave a report on their club’s activities. Presentations from Argentina, Shanghai and Singapore Yamaguchi kenjinkais, who were unable to attend, were also shown.

Fun entertainment was presented by **Honolulu Yamaguchi Kenjinkai** representatives, **Lynda Asato** and **Marilyn Higashide**, who danced a hula to the vintage song, “Kan-Kan Musume”; and the entire **Brazil Yamaguchi Kenjinkai** members, donned happi coats and danced an ondo around the dining tables (photos on page 4).

Guests then enjoyed an international luncheon buffet and special chocolate treats created and donated by NYK member, **Miko (Igawa) Sanchez**. During the lunch, a presentation was shown that highlighted Yamaguchi, Japan’s changing seasons, breathtaking landscapes, places to visit, and its foods and drinks.

110th NYK Anniversary—Part II

After lunch, the second portion of the program celebrated the 110th Anniversary of Nanka Yamaguchi Kenjinkai. NYK President **Arturo Yoshimoto** welcomed everyone and gave a brief history of Nanka Yamaguchi Kenjinkai.

Former NYK president, **Arlene Nakamura**, gave a Powerpoint presentation that highlighted NYK’s 2015 activities: Shinnen-enkai (New Year’s party), annual picnic, Tanabata festival, and the Keiro Nursing Home visit.

(Continued on page 5)



For more World Grand Meeting photos go to <https://www.flickr.com/photos/137971759@N08/albums>
Photos from Richard Fukuhara, Arlene Nakamura, Steven Tani and International Yamaguchi Members.



Created by Millie & Steven Tani

"Choruru" - Yamaguchi, Japan's Mascot

4th Yamaguchi Kenjinkai World Grand Meeting—*cont'd from p2*



William Ford

NYK member, **William Ford**, performed an outstanding dance about a man who must choose between his life as a yakuza or a life with the woman he loves.

Governor Muraoka then presented Lifetime Service certificates and gifts to the following NYK members: **Umeno**

Ford, Reijin Fujita, Victor Fukuhara, Nancy Gohata, Wallace Hamano, Kiyoshi & Wakiko Igawa, Yasuko Katayama, Masako Kawamura, Yoshiko Kishimoto, Masaki & Fujiko Matsubara, Hideo & Haruko Morikawa, Tomiko Nakata, Roy & Maurine Oban, Mitsuko Ono, Patrick Seki, Hideaki Tanaka, and Henry & Helen Yasuda (see a few more photos on page 3). Honorees unable to attend were:



Yoshiko Hayashi, Kaiji & Toshiko Katsumoto, Takashi Miyamoto, Hisako Nagamine, Mieko Nakamura, Toru Nishimura, Yoshinobu Ono, Toshii Osaka, Aiko Sakamura, and Mark Yoshida.

Eight NYK members were then called to the stage to receive Distinguished Service awards from the Governor: **Richard Fukuhara, Arlene Nakamura, Michiko Ota, Naomi Suenaka, Bruce & Fusako Thompson, and Mike & Aki Vaughn** (photo on page 4).



Arturo Yoshimoto
accepting a special
award from
Governor Muraoka.

NYK president, **Arturo Yoshimoto**, received a Special Appreciation award for going beyond his presidential duties (one example was his traveling to Mexico and Peru to personally invite kenjinkai members to attend the World Grand Meeting). In turn, Arturo presented the Governor a gift from NYK—bobbleheads of the entire L.A. Dodgers line up.

Additional gifts were presented to the Governor from Nanka Yamaguchi Kenjinkai. Former NYK president, **Richard Fukuhara**, presented an art piece he created of the “Astronaut Onizuka” Weller Court sculpture (photo on page 3), a rare Hideo Nomo pennant, and even rarer Nomo baseball cards (photos on page 4).

Then it was time to reveal the location of the next World Grand Meeting. **Kiyoshi Ueno**, Yamaguchi General Director of International Planning, announced that **the next World Grand Meeting will be held in Yamaguchi, Japan in the year 2020.**

The luncheon came to an end with the entire audience singing “Sukiyaki”.

Each guest left with a gift bag souvenir which was manufactured and printed by **Arturo Yoshimoto’s** company, **Ink A Graphics and Signs**. Imprinted on one side of the bag was the Yamaguchi logo and on the other side, the WGM logo created by **Ann Tani**. The bag was filled with California-made snacks and an “I Love L.A.” pin (all donated by NYK); **The Bonsai Babes** holiday cards donated by NYK member and book author, **Lora Nakamura**; L.A. guide map and a microfiber cloth donated by the L.A. Tourism Board; Toyota tote bag from Toyota Motors; and tissues from Union Bank. The Brazil Yamaguchi Kenjinkai also donated a pamphlet on Brazil and a 2016 Olympic coin. Yamaguchi, Japan, donated brochures on Yamaguchi Prefecture and a special handmade fan decorated with the Iwakuni City’s Kintaikyo Bridge and made with wood found in Yamaguchi (photo on page 3).

Sunday, November 15 Youth Cultural Exchange Meeting

The final event was the Youth Cultural Exchange Meeting which was held at the Nerio Education Center in the Japanese American National Museum. About 20 youths from Brazil, Peru and NYK attended the get-together to establish international friendships (see photo on page 3).

The **UCLA Kyodo Daiko Group** taught the youths to play taiko drums; a young Brazilian member showed everyone how to juggle; and a goldfish lantern art project added to the fun. NYK member, **Trace Fukuhara**, built a wooden sumo wrestler for picture taking. Tasting “strange snacks” from the countries represented was also a highlight of the day which was enjoyed by all (photos on page 4).

With the end of the Youth Cultural Exchange Meeting, the 4th Yamaguchi Kenjinkai World Grand Meeting officially came to a close.

We hope you will be able to attend the 5th Yamaguchi Kenjinkai World Grand Meeting in 2020 in Yamaguchi, Japan. It will be a chance to explore your ancestral roots and make new friends! See you there!

(Continued on page 6)

