



Nanka Yamaguchi Kenjinkai Newsletter



Volume IV, Issue 2

2nd Quarter 2015

2015 NYK **NEW Picnic Site!** — Sunday, June 14, 2015

Summer is the time for the entire family to gather and enjoy fun in the sun, great entertainment and good food at Nanka Yamaguchi Kenjinkai (NYK) annual picnic. This year, we have a new picnic site due to renovations going on at the Leo Politi Picnic Grounds. Our **new** venue is the public George Elder Park in Monterey Park:

Date: SUNDAY, JUNE 14, 2015

Time: 11:00 AM – 5:00 PM

Please note: Though the official start time of the picnic is 11:00, we would encourage those who can to please come early and help us secure tables and grassy areas in the vicinity of the gazebo.

**Location: GEORGE ELDER PARK
1950 Wilcox Ave
Monterey Park**

Please note: There are not many picnic tables available, so you may want to bring your own. Gozas and/or blankets are a good idea. You might want to bring a tent canopy, but please note that the park does not allow stakes in the ground.

The NYK group will be located at the gazebo adjacent to the swimming pool (west side of the park). Just look for our signs!

The George Elder Park has 2 parking lots and paved, flat walkways for easy access. The kiddies can enjoy an open play area with jungle gym, and tennis courts are available on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Bring the entire family and friends and enjoy complimentary bottled water, soft drinks, juices; shaved ice; and hot dogs and chili. Kids and adults of all ages are guaranteed to have fun learning ondo and American line dancing, running races and playing games.

Pre-Order Your Bento Lunch(es)

If you'd like to enjoy a traditional Japanese bento box lunch (\$10 each) at the picnic or take one home to enjoy for dinner, place your order by calling:



(English) Arlene Nakamura— 626-281-6548
(Japanese) Yoshiko Kishimoto—626-287-8600

**Please place your order by:
SUNDAY, JUNE 7**

*** Picnic Raffle Tickets ***

Picnic raffle tickets will be mailed to all NYK members. Sales of raffle tickets at \$2 each is our annual fundraiser and proceeds help support our events throughout the year. You'll have a chance to win prizes and maybe win one of the grand cash prizes below:

Grand Cash Prizes

1st Place winner: \$500
2nd Place winner: \$300
3rd Place winner: \$200

When you receive your tickets in the mail, please fill in the stubs by either using return address labels or printing your name, address and, most importantly, your phone number. We **MUST** receive them **NO LATER THAN WEDNESDAY, JUNE 10**, or bring them with you to the picnic. Raffle tickets can also be purchased at the picnic. For more information please call **Richard Fukuhara** at 714-998-8790 or email us at:

Nanka.Yamaguchi.Kenjinkai@gmail.com.
(Note our new NYK gmail address)

(Continued on page 2)

2015 NYK Scholarship Applications



Scholarship applications are **NOW AVAILABLE** to graduating high school seniors who are descendants of Yamaguchi Prefecture, Japan.

The winner(s) will be awarded their scholarships at our annual picnic on Sunday, June 14, 2015.



The Scholarship Applications are on our Facebook page:
Yamaguchi-Kenjinkai-Los Angeles.

Scholarship Applications Submission Deadline

*** JUNE 1, 2015 ***

For more information contact Scholarship Chairperson, **Arlene Nakamura** at 626.281.6548 or email us at the NYK gmail address:

Nanka.Yamaguchi.Kenjinkai@gmail.com.

###

2015 NYK Picnic—*Cont'd from pg1*

Singers, start warming up your vocal cords as we have an extensive catalogue of Japanese and American karaoke songs. Dancers, entertainers and musicians, if you'd like to share your talent, please bring your CDs and musical instruments.

2015 Scholarship Winners will be announced at the picnic (see above). Bento (boxed Japanese lunches) can be pre-ordered (see pg.1). We hope you can join us!



###

Need a Ride to Our Events?



With some of our members living close to one another and some members without transportation, we are trying to connect those who need a ride to the picnic with those who can provide a ride.

If you need a ride or would like to offer your services, please contact **Atsuko Kimoto** at 310-990-9951 or **Henry Yasuda** at 323-269-4855 who will work out the logistics with you.

There is no guarantee that we can arrange a ride for you, but we will do our best.

###

Tee Shirt Fundraiser Sale at Picnic!

The 4th Yamaguchi World Grand Meeting tee-shirt will be on sale at our picnic on Sunday, June 14 at a cost of \$20.00.

The white tee-shirt celebrates the 4th Yamaguchi World Grand Meeting to be held November 12-14, 2015 in Little Tokyo (see pg. 3).



Designed by **Ann Tani**, the talented daughter of **Millie** and **Steven Tani**, and produced by NYK club president., **Arturo Yoshimoto**, features the Yamaguchi logo on the front and the *fugu* (pufferfish), which is well-known as Yamaguchi's delicacy. The dark red shape around the pufferfish is the Yamaguchi prefecture.

Proceeds from the sale of the tee-shirt will help fund the 4th Yamaguchi World Grand Meeting (see page 3 for more information). If you'd like to order one in advance, please contact Arturo Yoshimoto at Arturo@hayashirealty.com or email us at the NYK gmail address:

Nanka.Yamaguchi.Kenjinkai@gmail.com.

###

4th Yamaguchi World Grand Meeting

Los Angeles

November 12 - 15, 2015

Nanka Yamaguchi Kenjinkai (NYK) will host the 4th Yamaguchi Kenjinkai World Grand Meeting to be held in November 2015.

— PURPOSE —

Meet Yamaguchi kenjinkai partners from other countries to establish a mutual understanding between the Yamaguchi prefecture and the kenjinkai. Yamaguchi, Japan hopes to promote their foods, culture, and tourism, and encourage Youth Visit Exchange.

— WHO WILL BE ATTENDING? —

A VIP delegation from Yamaguchi, Japan, including **Governor Tsugumasa Muraoka** and Kenjinkai members from Brazil (including a youth group in their early to mid-20's), Peru, Mexico and Hawaii. We are expecting about 60 international guests.

Planned Itinerary (subject to change)

Thursday, Nov 12, 2015

Arrival of delegates from Yamaguchi Prefecture, Brazil, Peru, Mexico and Hawaii.

Friday, Nov 13, 2015

VIP delegates meetings with L.A. Mayor Garcetti, L.A. City Council, Consul General of Japan, and Japanese American businessmen (*tentative*).

All other delegates have the day free to shop in Little Tokyo or tour Los Angeles and Hollywood sites.

Saturday, Nov 14, 2015

Morning: **Brazil Youth Exchange Group Meeting** with international Kenjinkai and NYK youth members.

Mid-Morning: **World Grand Meeting Conference** Japanese American National Museum Tateuchi Democracy Forum
All delegates and NYK members.

Luncheon: Around 12:00pm at DoubleTree (formerly New Otani), Little Tokyo
4th Yamaguchi World Grand Meeting and Nanka Yamaguchi Kenjinkai 110th Anniversary Celebration
All delegates and NYK members.

We Need Your Help!

Watch your mail for communication that will be sent out to all NYK members. We need:

1. To determine the number of NYK members planning to attend the Saturday, November 14, 2015 World Grand Meeting Conference.
2. To determine the number of NYK members planning to attend the Saturday, November 14, 2015 World Grand Meeting Luncheon & Nanka Yamaguchi Kenjinkai 110th Anniversary Celebration.
3. Monetary Donations.
4. Help at the events.
5. NYK Youth members to attend the Brazil Youth Exchange gathering on Saturday, November 14.
6. Drivers (tentative).
7. Translators who are fluent in either Japanese, Brazilian Portuguese or Spanish.
8. We may need volunteers to escort groups who want to tour Los Angeles/Hollywood.

If you can help, please contact:

Arlene Nakamura at (626) 221-4271
email at arlenenakamura@gmail.com
Or Nanka.Yamaguchi.Kenjinkai@gmail.com

NYK Pioneer Profile

San Gabriel Nursery & Florist and its Founder, the late Fred W. Yoshimura

This month we are featuring one of the pioneers of Nanka Yamaguchi Kenjinkai and the founder of the **San Gabriel Nursery & Florist, Mr. Fred W. Yoshimura**.

Fred was born in Yamaguchi, Japan in 1895, and came to the U.S. when he was 21 with dreams of becoming a successful businessman to help support his family in Japan. He arrived in San Francisco in 1917 and in 1922 moved to San Gabriel. He learned to garden and began landscaping and gardening for the new, large homes being built in San Marino and Pasadena. He became one of the pioneers of sprinkler system installation that was uncommon at the time and affordable only to the wealthy. Eventually, Fred managed to save enough money to lease a small parcel of land and start Mission Nursery.

In 1924, Fred married **Mitoko Naito**, a native of Hiroshima, Japan, who had been working for a family in South Pasadena. They had four children:

Hayao, Raymond, Florence and Margie.



When a customer showed Mitoko the basics of floral arranging, she taught herself to make corsages, funeral wreaths and many other types of arrangements, leading to the opening of one of the first florists in San Gabriel.

By the early 1930's, Mr. and Mrs. Yoshimura employed over 60 people, but after the war, the family had to start again and eventually opened the San Gabriel Nursery, which became one of the oldest and largest nurseries and florists in Southern California.

Fred was an active member in many organizations, including the Nanka Yamaguchi Kenjinkai, serving as president from 1946 to 1950, and 1962 to 1964.

He was also the recipient of the Japan Emperor's Medal, Order of the Sacred Treasure, Gold and Silver Rays.

Fred continued to serve his community and lead his company's business until he passed away in 1976, at the age of 81. Mitoko helped out in the florist until she passed away in 1990, at the age of 91.

The San Gabriel Nursery & Florist is now run by Fred and Mitoko's descendants who continue to serve and support the community for which Nanka Yamaguchi Kenjinkai is proud and very grateful.



This article is a synopsis of the fascinating Yoshimura Family / San Gabriel Nursery & Florist story. Read more on their website: <http://sgnurserynews.com/site/history>.

#

 **Yamaguchi-Kenjinkai-Los Angeles**



Nanka Yamaguchi Kenjinkai

2015 Board Directors

Arturo Yoshimoto..... President
arturo@hayashirealty.com

Aki Fukuhara-Vaughn.....Secretary
aki@vaughnlawoffice.com

Naomi Suenaka Treasurer
nsuenaka@gmail.com

Newsletter Editor

Arlene Nakamura arlenenakamura@gmail.com

Newsletter Creator & Publisher

Aki Fukuhara-Vaughn aki@vaughnlawoffice.com

Advisors and Board Members

Richard Fukuhara, Victor Fukuhara, Kiyoshi Igawa, Atsuko Kimoto, Arlene Nakamura, Michi Ota, Patrick Seki, Millie & Steven Tani, France Wong, and Helen & Henry Yasuda.

Questions? / Comments? Email us at:
Nanka.Yamaguchi.Kenjinkai@gmail.com