

Nanka Yamaguchi Kenjinkai Newsletter



Volume IV, Issue 3

3rd Quarter 2015

NYK Picnic — Sunday, June 14, 2015

Approximately 125 Nanka Yamaguchi Kenjinkai members, families and friends gathered to enjoy a day of fun at the George Elder Park in Monterey Park. This was a new venue for our picnic due to renovations taking place at the private Leo Politi Picnic Grounds in Elysian Park. Despite Elder Park being open to the public, we were fortunate to have the entire park to ourselves. Amenities included a gazebo with sink and BBQ, a children's play area, a tennis court, many shade trees and a wide open area for games. Reviews from members of this new site have been very positive.



Board members and volunteers setting up early.

MC, **Aki Fukuhara-Vaughn**, introduced **Kokoro Taiko** from Long Beach who opened the day's festivities with a rousing performance!

NYK president, **Arturo Yoshimoto**, welcomed everyone and thanked them for coming. He announced a very important event, the 4th Yamaguchi World Grand Meeting, taking place in November this year in Little Tokyo. A meeting conference is planned on Saturday, November 14 followed by the World Grand Meeting celebration and 110th Nanka Yamaguchi Kenjinkai Anniversary luncheon at the Doubletree in Little Tokyo. Arturo invited all members



NYK President, Arturo Yoshimoto

to attend (please read page 2 for more information).

Scholarship chairperson, **Arlene Nakamura**, announced this year's recipient, **Collin Kawahara**, who was in Japan and unable to attend. Accepting the award was his mother, **Martie**, and sister, **Quincy**, (read more on page 6).



Arlene Nakamura presenting the 2015 Scholarship Award.

Next, everyone gathered to catch pink and white mochi. It was every man, woman and child for himself!



Lunch was announced and grilled hot dogs, rice and chili (courtesy of **Arturo Yoshimoto**), soft drinks, juices and water, sno-cones with azuki beans (homemade by **Yoshiko Kishimoto**) and pre-purchased bento lunches were available for all to enjoy.

After lunch, it was time for Karaoke and games and races. Karaoke MC, **Henry Yasuda**, introduced the many talented singers in our club while **Larry Fukuhara** called the games and races for toddlers, kids and adults.

Dancing then took center stage with ondo led by **Yasuko Katayama**, **Yoshiko Kishimoto**, **Miko (Igawa) Sanchez** and **Kaz (Igawa) Fong**, and the super fun line dance to "Skinny Genes", taught by **Arlene Nakamura**.

(Continued on page 3)

4th Yamaguchi World Grand Meeting

Little Toyko, Los Angeles

November 14 & 15, 2015

Nanka Yamaguchi Kenjinkai (NYK) will host the 4th Yamaguchi Kenjinkai World Grand Meeting to be held November 14 & 15, 2015.

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** will be in attendance. We are expecting about 60 international guests.

2 Host Families Needed!

Two university students from Yamaguchi Prefecture will be attending the 4th World Grand Meeting. **We are looking for two families, preferably with children around university/high school age, to host the students for two or three days.**

Both students speak English. One student has studied in the U.S. and the other in Finland. At this time, we have not heard if the students are 2 boys or 2 girls or 1 girl and 1 boy, but will send out an email blast as soon as we find out.

If you are able to open your home to one of these students, please let us know **as soon as possible** by contacting Naomi Suenaka at Nsuenaka@gmail.com or 562-695-8700.

Questions / Comments?

Email us at: Nanka.Yamaguchi.Kenjinkai@gmail.com

Attention!

All Teens to 30+ Year Olds!

You are all invited to attend the Youth Exchange Meeting on Sunday, November 15, in Little Tokyo (time to be determined). There you will meet and mingle with youthful Kenjinkai members from Brazil, Peru and Japan.

If you are in your teens to 30s, we would love to have you attend. Please RSVP to Naomi Suenaka at Nsuenaka@gmail.com or 562-695-8700.

We Need Your Help!

1. Monetary donations will be greatly appreciated.
2. We will need help at the events with registration, setting up, breaking down, etc.
3. We may need drivers (tentative).
4. We will need members who are fluent in either Japanese, Brazilian Portuguese or Spanish.
5. We may need volunteers to escort groups who want to tour Los Angeles/Hollywood.

If you'd like to help, please contact any one of our Board Members listed on page 6 or at Nanka.Yamaguchi.Kenjinkai@gmail.com.

Revised Itinerary

Day / Date / Time	Event	Location
Fri, Nov 13, 2015 Time: To be determined	Meet L.A. City Officials, L.A. Consul General Japanese-American Businessmen. VIP Delegates	To be determined (TBD).
Sat, Nov 14, 2015 9:30 am—11:45 am	World Grand Meeting Conference ALL Delegates and NYK Members	Japan. American National Museum Tateuchi Democracy Forum
12:00 pm—5:00 pm	4th Yamaguchi World Grand Meeting Ceremony NYK 110th Anniversary Celebration ALL Delegates and NYK members	DoubleTree (formerly New Otani), Little Tokyo Grand Ballroom
Sun, Nov 15, 2015 Time: TBD	Youth Exchange Meeting ALL Teens to 30s	To be determined (TBD), Little Tokyo

2015 NYK Picnic—*Cont'd from pg 1*



Delicious and beautiful treats made by **Miko Sanchez** were distributed for everyone to enjoy. Miko and her sister, **Kaz Fong**, also donated their artistic talents painting the faces of many kiddies (and adults, too).

Closing out the day was the raffle prize drawing. A special thank you to the **Yonemura Family of ABC Nursery** for donating beautiful 1 gallon plants.

The day ended with everyone going home with big smiles. We hope to see you next summer and at the 4th Yamaguchi World Grand Meeting on November 14 & 15, 2015!

Special Acknowledgements

Notices / Mailings / Tickets / Posters *Richard Fukuhara, Atsu Kimoto, Naomi Suenaka, Aki Vaughn & Arturo Yoshimoto.*
 9:00 am Setup..... *Board Members & Advisors, Larry Fukuhara, Clark Yoshida & Mark Yoshida.*
 Kokoro Taiko *Cece Caldwell, Ron Dam, Lloyd Nakano, Joanne Matsunaga, Ken Sumida & Brandon Suyemoto.*
 Mistress of Ceremonies *Aki Fukuhara-Vaughn.*
 Hot Dogs Station *Arturo Yoshimoto & Family.*
 Sno-Cone Station..... *Musashi-san.*
 Azuki Beans *Yoshiko Kishimoto.*
 Sno-Cone Flavors..... *Richard Fukuhara & Arturo Yoshimoto.*
 Drinks & Ice Pick-up..... *Kiyoshi Igawa.*
 Bento Order / Pick-up..... *Arlene Nakamura / Trace Fukuhara.*
 Group Photographer *Richard Fukuhara.*
 Registration Table *Atsu Kimoto, Michi Ota, & Naomi Suenaka.*
 Scholarship Certificates Designer/Creator *Margaret Yasuda.*
 Face Painting *Miko Sanchez & Kaz Fong.*
 Ondo Captains..... *Yasuko Katayama & Yoshiko Kishimoto.*
 Line Dance Instructor *Arlene Nakamura.*
 Happi Coat Caretaker *Naomi Suenaka.*
 Karaoke System..... *Patrick Seki.*
 Karaoke MC..... *Henry Yasuda.*
 PA System / Generator *Mike Vaughn.*
 Singers..... *To all our talented members: Thank you!*
 Special treats *Miko Sanchez.*
 Races & Games..... *The Fukuhas: Larry (MC), Cindy, Joann, Richard, Tony, Trace, Aki & Mike Vaughn; & France Wong.*
 Raffle prize purchases *Atsu Kimoto & Aki Vaughn.*
 Donations *Special thanks to Fusako & Bruce Thompson, Mimio Designs, and the Yonemura Family of ABC Nursery.*

If we missed anyone, gomen-nasai!

Group photo below by Richard Fukuhara.



More Picnic Photos!



Photos by Richard Fukuhara & Steven Tani

NYK Member News



Terry Hara

About 500 attended the retirement party for Nanka Yamaguchi Kenjinkai member and former Los Angeles Deputy Chief, **Terry S. Hara**. Family, friends, dignitaries and entertainers gathered at the Castaway in Burbank to celebrate Terry Hara's 35 years with the LAPD. Thank you for your service, Terry, and happy retirement!

Former NYK president, **Richard Fukuhara** (pictured below right front), was honored by the Orange County Nikkei Coordinating Council (OCNCC) with the 2015 Pioneer Award for his many years of dedicated service to the community.



The Orange County Coordinating Council 2015 Awardees. (Front l-r): **Diane Otsuka** (OC Optimist Club); **Irene Higashi** (Suburban Optimist Club); **Sara Hutter** (2015 Miss OC Japanese American); and **Richard Fukuhara** (OC Optimist Club); (Back row): **Dave Higashi** (Suburban Optimist Club); **Marisa Otani** (SELANOCO, Japanese American Citizens' League); **Freeman Beale** (OCPA), and **Stacey Chomori** (South East Youth Organization).
—Photo Neddie Bokosky



Ann Tani

Ann Tani, a 2010 NYK Scholarship recipient and the daughter of **Steven** and **Millie Tani** of Rosemead, graduated from Cal State University of Fullerton with a Bachelors of Fine Arts in Graphic Design, Cum Laude.

Ann's maternal grandmother, **Kiyoko Lily Shimada** (nee Mishima), was from Yanai-Shi and her maternal grandfather, **George Hideo Shimada**, was from Iwakuni.

Ann was recently hired full-time at ePelician in Newport Beach as their Graphic Designer. She is grateful to have found a job so quickly after graduating and in her field of study.

Ann's hobbies include designing and making her own cosplay costumes, arts and crafts, and playing video games.

Catherine Sanchez, the daughter of **Rick** and **Miko (Igawa) Sanchez**, has made two Olympic Trial Times in swimming—at the Speedo Grand Challenge in the 100 meter Butterfly and in the 200 meter Butterfly at La Mirada, Junior Age Group Champs.



Catherine Sanchez

Photo from
The San Gabriel Valley Tribune.

Catherine was recently featured in the San Gabriel Valley Tribune on the sports page titled, "All-Area Girls Swimming: Glendora's Catherine Sanchez and coach Janet Mobley-Pollard earn top honors".

Catherine goes to Omaha, Nebraska next summer—on the road to the Olympics!

Congratulations to our NYK Members. You make us proud!

2015 L.A. Tanabata Festival

The Los Angeles Tanabata Festival is just around the corner and the Nanka Yamaguchi Kenjinkai will once again submit an entry. This year's theme is "Heart and Soul". **Last year, NYK took first in the Kenjinkai Division.** This year we look forward to seeing new faces to help us make the decoration (called "kazari").

Please contact NYK Tanabata Committee Chair **Richard Fukuhara** at 714-271-7646 or at Richard@fukuharafoto.com if you'd like to help.

Opening Tanabata Festival Ceremony Fri, 8/14, 5pm—8pm
Tanabata Festival, next to JANM & MOCA Sat, 8/15, 11am—9pm
Sun, 8/16, 11am—5pm

Meet the "Fugu" Balloon

If you attended our picnic, you must have noticed a huge balloon in the shape of a "fugu" (puffer fish). A little history: 80% of the fugu eaten in Japan is from Shimonoseki City in Yamaguchi Prefecture. Shimonoseki is known as "Fugu City" or "The Fugu Capital".

The fugu balloon was used in the 66th National Sports Day in 2011 (pictured on the right) during the 3rd World Grand Meeting in Yamaguchi, Japan. Delegates from NYK attended, headed by then president **Arlene Nakamura**. After the World Grand Meeting, the fugu was shipped to Arlene from **Mr. Yukihiro Shinohara**.



We decided to bring it out this year and it proved to be a hit with everyone at the picnic (see photos on page 4).

2015 NYK Scholarship Recipient



Collin Kawahara
Photo taken in front of
a Yamaguchi tree
in Tokyo.

The 2015 Nanka Yamaguchi Kenjinkai Scholarship was awarded to Crescenta Valley High School graduate, **Collin Kawahara**, the son of **Robert and Martie (Quon) Kawahara**. Collin was in Japan and his mother and sister, **Quincy**, accepted the award on his behalf at the annual picnic. They brought a picture of Collin taken in Tokyo in front of a "Yamaguchi" tree.

An Eagle Scout, Collin maintained a 4.259 GPA and will be attending the University of California, San

Diego in the fall, majoring in Computer Science. Congratulations, Collin!

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Tee Shirt Fundraiser



A tee-shirt that celebrates the upcoming 4th Yamaguchi World Grand Meeting taking place in Little Tokyo this November 2015 (see page 2) is available for a cost of \$20.00.

Designed and modeled here by **Ann Tani**, the tee features the Yamaguchi logo on the front and on the back, 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 will help fund the 4th Yamaguchi World Grand Meeting (see page 2 for more information). If you'd like to order one, please contact NYK president and the manufacturer of the tee-shirt, **Arturo Yoshimoto**, at Arturo@hayashirealty.com or email us at the NYK gmail address:

Nanka.Yamaguchi.Kenjinkai@gmail.com.

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Let us know if you have news to share!

Contact Arlene Nakamura at arlenenakamura@gmail.com or Aki Vaughn at aki@vaughnlawoffice.com / 562-234-5702.

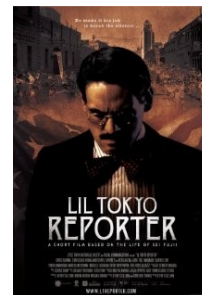


[www.facebook.com
Yamaguchi-Kenjinkai-Los-Angeles](http://www.facebook.com/Yamaguchi-Kenjinkai-Los-Angeles)

Sei Fujii Memorial Marker

The Little Tokyo Historical Society will be installing a memorial marker honoring **Sei Fujii** who sued and won the 1952 California Supreme Court case that overturned the California Alien Land Law.

Mr. Fujii was the publisher of the Kashu Mainichi Japanese newspaper from 1933 to 1954 and served as **Nanka Yamaguchi Kenjinkai president in 1924-1925**.



Although Mr. Fujii received his law degree at USC, he was not allowed to practice law because he was an Issei and not an American citizen. He joined forces with Attorney J. Marion Wright, and together they helped provide legal assistance to the Issei and fought against discriminatory laws.

A short film about Sei Fujii, *Lil Tokyo Reporter*, was produced in 2012.

The memorial marker will be located in the Japanese Village Plaza near Second Street in Little Tokyo this summer.

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Questions / Comments?

Email us at

Nanka.Yamaguchi.Kenjinkai@gmail.com



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 Otaya, Patrick Seki, Millie & Steven Tani, Mike Vaughn, and Helen & Henry Yasuda.