

# Nanka Yamaguchi Kenjinkai Newsletter



Volume IV, Issue 1

1st Quarter 2015

## 2015 Shinnenkai New Year's Luncheon — January 25, 2015

There were a few new faces among the almost 70 members of the Nanka Yamaguchi Kenjinkai (NYK) New Year's/Shinnenkai luncheon at the Quiet Cannon in Montebello. The day was unusually warm as guests were welcomed into a colorfully decorated banquet room with multi-colored azaleas generously donated by our friends at **San Gabriel Nursery**.

Emcee **Aki Fukuhara-Vaughn** welcomed everyone and introduced club president, **Richard Fukuhara**, who delivered "Happy New Year" greetings to all and announced the 2015 slate of officers. The general membership approved the officers and the following were elected:

### 2015 NYK Board

President, <b>Arturo Yoshimoto</b>	VP, <b>Open</b>
Secretary, <b>Aki Fukuhara-Vaughn</b>	Treasurer, <b>Naomi Suenaka</b>

New president, **Arturo Yoshimoto**, was in San Francisco and unable to attend the luncheon, but sent a video message of acceptance and asked for support of the NYK. Although we were unable to play his

message at the event, a link to the video was emailed to the membership.

Before lunch was served, glasses were raised and **Reijin Fujita** led everyone in a *kampa* toast, and **Rev. Kiyoshi Igawa** delivered the invocation.

After lunch Karaoke Master of Ceremonies, **Patrick Seki**, introduced our talented singers: **Yasuko Katayama**, **Yoshiko Kishimoto**, **Ayako** and **Reijin Fujita**, **Henry Yasuda**, **Norie Furuya**, and **Kiyoshi Igawa**. Closing out the karaoke were **Aki Fukuhara-Vaughn**, **Dana Okamoto**, **Kenny Okamoto**, **Elsie Myers** and **Fusako Thompson** who led everyone in a group singing of "Sukiyaki". Kudos to 12-year-old **Kenny** who wowed on his whistling solo.

Special entertainment featured NYK member, **Sensei William Ford**, who gave a karate demonstration with two large, curved blades. We held our breaths and let out a collective sigh of relief when he fin-

*(Continued on page 3)*

## *Our Senior Honorees*



Front from left: **Mieko Nakamura**, **Helen Yasuda**, **Tomiko Nakata**, **Yoshiko Monji**, **Mitsuko Yamamoto**, **Masako Kawamura**, **Roy Oban**, **Tomoko Hirshfield**, **Haruko Morikawa**. Back from left: **Reijin Fujita**, **Yasuko Katayama**, **Fujiko Matsubara**, **Mitsuko Ono**, **Hisako Nagamine**, **Yoshiko Kishimoto**, **Maurine Oban**, **Umeno Ford**, **Aiko Sakamura**, **Hideo Morikawa**, **Masaki Matsubara**, **Henry Yasuda**. —Photo by Richard Fukuhara

Shinnenkai Photos—*Cont'd from pg. 1*

*Gifts for our Senior Honorees—pagodas filled with treats created by Millie & Steven Tani.*



*The youngest person at each table took home the centerpieces, but 12-year-old **Kenny Okamoto** decided to give his to the oldest NYK member at his table, **Mitsuko Yamamoto**.*



*Michi Ota & Atsu Kimoto.*



*Kampai!*



*Singing "Sukiyaki" from left: **Fusako Thompson**, **Elsie Myers**, **Kenny Okamoto**, **Dana Okamoto** & **Aki Vaughn**.*

—Photos by Steven Tani

## NEW SITE for June 15 PICNIC!

Due to the unavailability of our usual picnic site, this year's picnic will be held in **Monterey Park at George Elder Park**.

When: Sunday, June 14, 2015  
Where: **George Elder Park**  
1950 Wilcox (corner of Elmgate)  
**Monterey Park**  
Time: 11:30 AM Start



The park is easy to find and has plenty of parking, jungle gyms for the kiddies, tennis courts and a swimming pool. We have reserved usage of the swimming pool for two hours, but the tennis courts are on a first-come, first serve basis, so bring your swimsuits and tennis rackets.

We'll have races for the kids and adults, Karaoke and raffle prizes and much more. As always, bento boxes will be on sale for \$10.00 per person. Please contact Arlene Nakamura at 626-221-4271 by June 5th to put in your lunch order.

Directions

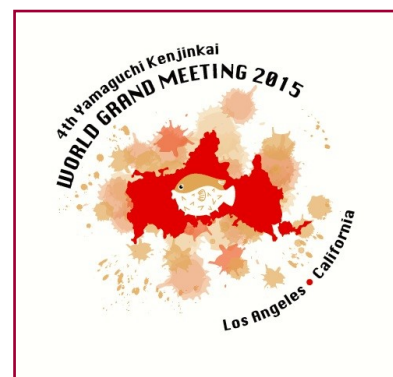
Take 60 Fwy East (from 710 North) and exit S. Garfield and turn left (go under freeway). Turn right at Elmgate to Wilcox which dead ends at the George Elder Community Center building for parking OR you can drive around the park to the other parking lot.

More details will follow via email. We hope you can join us!

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## NYK Tee Shirts Sale Fundraiser

NYK has created a tee-shirt celebrating the 4th Yamaguchi Kenjinkai World Grand Meeting in November 2015. The white tee shirt, designed by **Ann Tani**, the talented daughter of **Millie** and **Steven Tani**, and produced by NYK club president, **Arturo Yoshimoto**, will be on sale at our annual picnic on June 15. It features the Yamaguchi logo on the front and the *fugu* (pufferfish), one of the famous symbols of Yamaguchi, on the back.



The shirts are \$20.00 each and proceeds will help fund the 4th Yamaguchi World Grand Meeting in November 2015 (*see page 3 for more information*). If you'd like to order one in advance, please contact Arturo Yoshimoto at [arturo@hayashirealty.com](mailto:arturo@hayashirealty.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. The purpose of the grand meeting is to gather Yamaguchi kenjinkai partners 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.

A VIP delegation from Yamaguchi, Japan, including **Governor Tsugumasa Muraoka**, the **Mayor of Iwakuni** and Kenjinkai members from around the world are expected to attend.

### We Need Your Help!

Watch your mail for communication that will be sent out soon 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 and 110th Nanka Yamaguchi Kenjinkai Anniversary Luncheon.
2. Monetary Donations.
3. Help at the events.
4. Drivers (tentative).
5. Translators who are fluent in either Japanese, Brazilian Portuguese or Spanish.

### Working Itinerary

#### Thursday, November 12, 2015

- \* World & U.S. Delegates Arrive in Los Angeles (Japan, Brazil, Peru, Mexico)

#### Friday, November 13, 2015

- \* Meetings with Los Angeles City Officials and Japanese American Businessmen
  - \* Welcome Reception

#### Saturday, November 14, 2015

- \* Meetings with Kenjinkai Presidents
- \* Brazil Youth Exchange Meeting
  - \* World Grand Meeting
- \* World Grand Meeting Luncheon Buffet & 110th Nanka Yamaguchi Kenjinkai Anniversary

If you can help, please contact:  
Arlene Nakamura at (626) 221-4271  
email at [arlenenakamura@gmail.com](mailto:arlenenakamura@gmail.com)

## New Year's Luncheon—*Cont'd from p.1*



*William Christopher Ford*

ished without a single scratch. We are grateful to William for sharing his talent and amazing performance! William then presented NYK with the 2014 Museum Honor Awards Marital Arts book, Honors. William received the Martial Arts Honors Award in 2014, and his photo graces the cover of the book. (For more information on William or to contact him, please visit his website: [Kaizendojo.com](http://Kaizendojo.com).)

Past president and Board advisor, **Arlene Nakamura**, presented outgoing president, **Richard Fukuhara**,

an elegant clock from **Miki Seki Jewelers** engraved "...with appreciation for outstanding service as President."

Richard Fukuhara then presented a photo art piece he created of the Kintaikyo Bridge in Iwakuni, Yamaguchi, to thank those who helped him throughout his tenure as President.

The highlight of our annual new year's luncheon is the honoring of members 80 and 80+ years of age. Twenty-one members were gifted with beautifully decorated pagodas filled with treats. Kudos to the creative husband and wife team of **Steven** and **Millie Tani** for the concept and for putting them together.

A "2014 Year in Review" slide presentation was created by Richard and narrated by Arlene. Notable events of the past year were the **2014 Tanabata Award** won by our club in the Kenjinkai Division and the **1st place trophy** that was won by the NYK team at the Nanka Kyogikai Bowling Tournament in November. One of the winning bowling team members, **Sam Nakata**, was present at the luncheon and applauded for bringing honor to NYK.

Aki and Patrick announced the current status of the **2015 Yamaguchi World Grand Meeting** to be held in **Los Angeles** on **November 13 and 14, 2015** and asked for the support of all members during this very important event (*read more about the World Grand Meeting left column*).

**Naomi Suenaka** next hosted the popular and always fun Bingo games, and finally, door prizes were distributed to all attendees.

The luncheon ended with good wishes to all for a wonderful 2015!

## Special Acknowledgments

William Ford, Carol Fukuhara, Paige Fukuhara,

Yoshiko Kishimoto, Kenny Okamoto, Ali Perrone,

Bruce Thompson, and San Gabriel Nursery.

## 2015 NYK Scholarship Applications



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

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

Contact Scholarship Chairperson,  
**Arlene Nakamura**

Email: [arlenenakamura@gmail.com](mailto:arlenenakamura@gmail.com)

Phone: 626.281.6548

You can also find the scholarship application on our Facebook page: Yamaguchi-Kenjinkai-Los Angeles.

**SUBMISSION DEADLINE: JUNE 1, 2015**

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## NYK Has Its Own Email Address

Nanka Yamaguchi Kenjinkai now has its own email address:

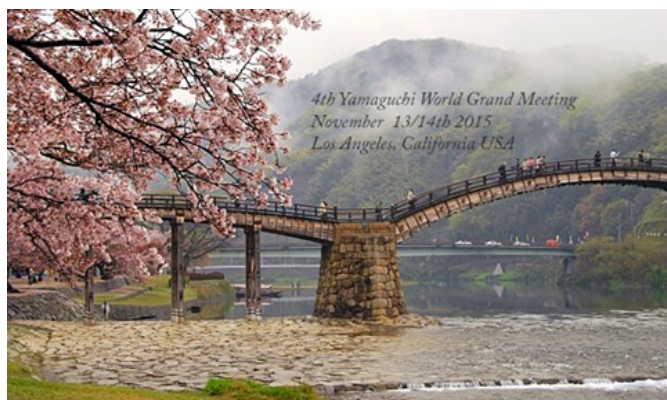
**[Nanka.Yamaguchi.Kenjinkai@gmail.com](mailto:Nanka.Yamaguchi.Kenjinkai@gmail.com)**

Please add this to your email accounts so that mail from NYK does not end up in your Spam folder. Write to us if you have any questions or requests. Thank you!

###



**Like Us on Facebook**

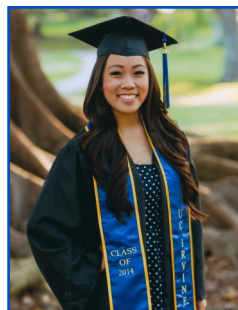


The Nanka Yamaguchi Kenjinkai Facebook page, created and administered by **Steven** and **Millie Tani**, is not only loaded with information about past and upcoming NYK events, photos and newsletters, but also features the latest news about Yamaguchi, Japan and the Nikkei community. Check it out for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



**Yamaguchi-Kenjinkai-Los Angeles**

## NYK Member News

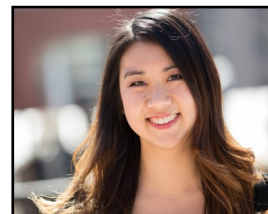


*Kristin Kimura*

**Kristin Kimura**, daughter of **Bruce & Lorraine Kimura** and granddaughter of the late **Fred Kimura**, recently graduated from UC Irvine with a major in Economics and a minor in Japanese.

Kristin, a 2010 NYK Scholarship recipient, is currently employed at Robert Half International in Irvine as a staffing manager recruiting employees in administrative jobs in the Orange County area. Congratulations, Kristin! ///

Another 2014 college graduate is **Tricia Fukuhara**, daughter of **Trace & Joann Fukuhara**. Tricia, a 2009 NYK scholarship recipient, graduated from New York University as a Drama Major. She is currently living in New York to pursue her dreams. Good luck, Tricia!



*Tricia Fukuhara*

Let us know if you have news to share!

Contact Arlene Nakamura at [arlenenakamura@gmail.com](mailto:arlenenakamura@gmail.com) or Aki Vaughn at [aki@vaughnlawoffice.com](mailto:aki@vaughnlawoffice.com) / 562-234-5702.



## Nanka Yamaguchi Kenjinkai

### 2015 Board

Arturo Yoshimoto..... President  
[arturo@hayashirealty.com](mailto:arturo@hayashirealty.com)

Open..... Vice President

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Naomi Suenaka ..... Treasurer  
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