

Nanka Yamaguchi Kenjinkai Newsletter



Volume V, Issue 1

1st Quarter 2016

NYK Members Welcome in 2016

There were quite a few new faces among the over 60 members attending the Nanka Yamaguchi Kenjinkai (NYK) New Year's / Shinnen-enkai Luncheon at the Quiet Cannon on February 21, 2016.

Emcee **Aki Fukuhara-Vaughn** welcomed everyone and introduced club president, **Arturo Yoshimoto**, who delivered "Happy New Year" greetings to all and announced the 2016 NYK Board officers nominees. The general membership approved the officers and the following were elected:

2016 NYK Board

President, **Arturo Yoshimoto** Vice President, **Millie Tani**
Secretary, **Aki Vaughn** Treasurer, **Naomi Suenaka**

Before lunch was served, glasses were raised and **Patrick Seki** led everyone in a *kampai* toast. **Rev. Kiyoshi Igawa** then delivered the invocation.

After a delicious lunch, Karaoke Master of Ceremony **Patrick Seki** introduced our talented singers: **Yasuko Katayama**, **Yoshiko Kishimoto**, **Ayako** and **Reijin Fujita**, **Takashi Miyamoto**, **Hideaki Tanaka** and **Henry Yasuda**.

Next was the highlight of our annual new year's luncheon—the honoring of members 80 and 80+ years of age. Sixteen members were introduced and each was presented with the *kawaii* gifts—scarves shaped in the form of a little girl, monkey, samurai warrior, and "choruru", Yamaguchi's mascot. In the back of each doll was a bag of treats. The creators of the dolls and the centerpieces, **Steven** and **Millie Tani**, never cease to amaze us with their creativity!

A "2015 Year in Review" slide presentation was narrated by Aki and Arturo. Notable events of the past year were the **2015 Tanabata Festival 5th Place Award** won by our club in the Kenjinkai Division and most importantly, the **4th Yamaguchi World Grand Meeting / 110th NYK Anniversary Celebration** which was held in November at the Doubletree Hotel.

Naomi Suenaka next hosted the popular and always fun Bingo games with the help of **Remi** and **Shogo Hayashi**. Closing out the luncheon were the distribution of door prizes to all attendees.

Arturo thanked everyone for attending and wished one and all a wonderful 2016! And with that, the luncheon ended with smiling faces and promises to see each other at our annual picnic!

Save the Date!

NYK Picnic - June 12

The venue of last year's picnic was such a success that we have decided to hold this year's picnic at the same location.

When: Sunday, June 12, 2016 (1 wk before Father's Day)

Where: **George Elder Park**
1950 Wilcox (corner of Elmgate)
Monterey Park

Time: 11:30 AM **Start**

The park is **easy to find**, has **plenty of parking**, jungle gyms for the kiddies and tennis courts (the tennis courts are on a first-come, first-serve basis).

We'll have races for the kids and adults, Karaoke, raffle prizes and much, much more! As always, bento boxes will be on sale.

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

2016 NYK Scholarship Applications



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

This year's forms are computer fillable which may be a preferable way to complete the documents. They can also be filled out by hand.

You can find the scholarship application forms on our Facebook page at [Yamaguchi-Kenjinkai-Los Angeles](https://www.facebook.com/Yamaguchi-Kenjinkai-Los-Angeles) or by contacting:

Scholarship Chairperson: **Arlene Nakamura**
Email: arlenenakamura@gmail.com
Phone: 626.281.6548

**ALL COMPLETED FORMS MUST BE SUBMITTED BY
JUNE 1, 2016**

The winner(s) will be awarded their scholarships at our annual picnic on Sunday, June 12, 2016.

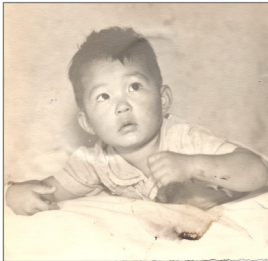
2016 Shinnen-Enkai Photos



Front row l-r: *Yoshiko Kishimoto, Yasuko Katayama, Meriko Miyamoto, Yoshiko Monji, Haruko Morikawa, Tomiko Nakata, and Helen Yasuda.* Back row l-r: *Reijin Fujita, Takashi Miyamoto, Hideo Morikawa, Mieko Nakamura, Mitsuko Ono, Hisako Nagamine, Roy Oban, Maurine Oban, and Henry Yasuda.*—Photo by Bruce Thompson.

NYK Member Profile

Richard Yutaka Fukuhara



Where were you born? I was born at the Minidoka, Idaho internment camp on August 20, 1944. After WWII ended, my father found housing at a trailer park in Long Beach and managed to resume his gardening business. In the early 50's my parents opened M.Hara Nursery in Long Beach.

Where were you educated? My three brothers (**Victor, Larry and Trace**) and two sisters (**Sandi and Aki**) and I attended Long Beach Polytechnic High School and various southland colleges. While taking a full class load at LB City College, I worked part-time as a sports photographer for the Long Beach Press Telegram and part-time as a public relations photographer for the Long Beach Memorial Medical Center.

Were you in the military? In 1966, I was drafted into the U.S. Army and worked for four months as a staff photographer at Fort Huachuca, Arizona, before joining the 75th Engineers Battalion as the unit photographer. The 75th trained with two other battalions for deployment to a "restricted area overseas" (Vietnam), but because of logistical equipment problems, the 75th fortunately stayed stateside.

What is your profession? After completing my military obligation, I attended UCLA and The Art Center School of Design while working as a freelance photographer. In 1970 I opened Fukuhara, Inc. Photography Studio in Signal Hill. My client list included Toyota, Nissan, IBM, Exxon, Occidental Petroleum, Modern Maturity Magazine, Auto Club Magazine, Hunt-Wesson Foods, Baskin-Robbins, Bumble Bee, Allergan, and many other companies.

I still take on clients, but for the last few years, I have turned more to the artistic side of photography. I had two solo exhibitions in Japan, and many solo exhibitions around Southern California. Today, my focus is an art project called, "Shadows for Peace, for the Sake of the Children, the Hiroshima and Nagasaki Experience". The project was presented in 2015 through forums at colleges and venues, including at the Japanese American National Museum, to "educate and engage" during the 70th Anniversary of the atomic bomb. I am currently working with the Japanese American Cultural and Community Center (JACCC) on a dance, music and art program called, "Remember the Hibakusha" (atomic bomb survivors).



Do you have children? I am the proud father of **Julia** and **Derek** who both played Orange County Optimist (OCO) basketball. Julia is a children's oncology nurse at San Diego Children's Hospital and Derek is a professional skateboarder who has traveled throughout the U.S., Europe and Canada.



What are you most proud of? Aside from my children, I am proud of my parents, **Henry Kiyoshi** and **Mary Sadako**, who passed away 10 days apart in 1999. My parents were very active in the community and, by their example, my siblings have followed. In 1991 my father received the "Order of the Sacred Treasure, Silver Rays" from the Emperor of Japan; and my mother was named "Long Beach Woman of the Year" in 1987.

(The following 2 paragraphs listing Richard's affiliations were added by this newsletter's publisher: El Toro Young Marines; The Orange County Junior Orchestra; Long Beach Japanese Cultural Center; OCO; Kokoro Taiko of Long Beach; Institute for Genetic Medicine Art Gallery; Nikkei Games, "Games for the Generations"; Love to Nippon; Los Angeles Tanabata Festival; Los Angeles-Nagoya Sister City and a contributing writer/photographer for the Rafu Shimpo.)

For six years he was an active member of the Irvine Chamber of Commerce Ambassadors, served as co-chair, and was recognized as the "Irvine Ambassador of the Year" for three consecutive years. In 2015 Richard was honored with the OCO Community Service Award and received the Nisei Week Pioneer Award.)

How did you get involved with Nanka Yamaguchi Kenjinkai?

My father, a *kibei*—born in America (Santa Barbara), but raised in Japan (Yanai-shi, Yamaguchi)—served as NYK president in 1968 and 1975, and my brother, Victor, served as NYK president in 2000. In honor of my father's memory, I became more involved with NYK and served as president for three years and now as an advisor.

What do you enjoy doing in your spare time? I found that I was wasting too much time watching TV (which I absolutely love), so I bit the bullet and cut off my cable service. Now I enjoy listening to KUSC (91.5) classical music; KJAZZ (88.1); KPCC (89.3) NPR. I enjoy creating images and love hearing the laughter of children. My goal is to learn something new every day!

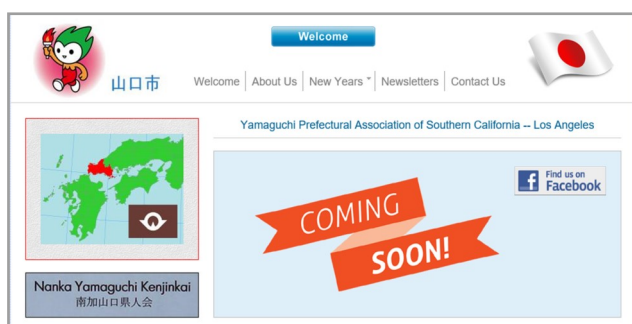
New Year's Luncheon Special Acknowledgments

Carol Fukuhara, Cindy Fukuhara, Richard Fukuhara,
Kysa, Lea, Manami, Remi and Shogo Hayashi,
Rev. Kiyoshi Igawa, Atsuko Kimoto,
Yoshiko Kishimoto, Arlene Nakamura, Michi Otaya,
Patrick Seki, Naomi Suenaka, Millie and Steven Tani,
Ann Tani, Bruce Thompson, Mike and Aki Vaughn,
Helen & Henry Yasuda, and Arturo Yoshimoto.

Thank you for all your help!

NYK Web Site Coming Soon!

NYK Member, **Bruce Thompson**, has generously offered to create a web site for our organization! It is still in its embryonic stages and Bruce is spending many hours constructing the site.



With a web site and Facebook page, Nanka Yamaguchi Kenjinkai will be able to further its reach to current and potential members. Watch for it!

 **Like Us on Facebook**

 **Yamaguchi-Kenjinkai-Los Angeles**

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 more photos from the February 21st New Year's Luncheon.

Questions? Suggestions? Comments?

Email us at

Nanka.Yamaguchi.Kenjinkai@gmail.com

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

More New Year Luncheon Photos



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.



Nanka Yamaguchi Kenjinkai

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Photos by Steven Tani and Bruce Thompson.