

# Nanka Yamaguchi Kenjinkai Newsletter



Volume V, Issue 3

3rd Quarter 2016

## A Fun Day at the NYK 2016 Picnic!

The weatherman forecasted light rain, but no raindrops fell on our 2016 Nanka Yamaguchi Kenjinkai (NYK) annual picnic on June 12. The skies were overcast which kept the temps at a very comfortable 72 degrees.



Emcee **Aki Fukuhara-Vaughn** introduced **Kokoro Taiko** who officially opened the picnic. NYK President **Arturo Yoshimoto** welcomed everyone and introduced special guests: Japanese Prefectural Association of Southern California (JPASC) President **George Mori** and **Mrs. Katsuko Mori**; Hiroshima Kenjinkai President **Yoshitaka Morioka** and Board Advisor **Yoshinori Akutagawa**; Kumamoto Kenjinkai President **Yoshikuni Okita**, and Tottori Kenjinkai President **Susumu Maki**. Mr. Mori announced the upcoming JPASC Talent Show in October and asked for the support of the Kumamoto earthquake victims.



*NYK president,  
Arturo Yoshimoto*

**Rafu Shimpo** Japanese Section Staff Reporter, **Nao Nakanishi**, asked our members to sign up for on-line subscriptions at \$50 per year to help keep the **Rafu** from closing its doors. NYK Treasurer, **Naomi Suenaka**, elaborated on the importance of supporting the **Rafu** as it is the only news source that informs Japanese nationals and Japanese Americans with business, political, sports, and cultural news from Japan and the Nikkei community.

**Naomi Suenaka** then announced the 2016 NYK Scholarship recipient, **Nicole Akemi Oshima**. Please see article on page 3.



Picnic-goers enjoyed homemade food or pre-ordered bento boxes from **Nijiya Market**, hot dogs and chili prepared by **Arturo Yoshimoto**, and yummy sno-cones topped with azuki beans made by **Yoshiko Kishimoto**. **Miko (Igawa) Sanchez** donated her delicious creations of homemade chocolate treats which were welcomed by all.

After the kiddies were invited to catch candy donated by **Lea Hayashi**, everyone enthusiastically tried to catch pink and white mochi. For those who were not familiar with how to eat the pounded rice cakes, **Larry Fukuhara** cooked them on the grill and offered a variety of dipping sauces.

It was then time to don happi coats and dance the traditional "Tanko Bushi" and "Iwakuni Ondo", led by **Yoshiko Kishimoto** and



**Yasuko Katayama**. Games and races, Karaoke, and face painting by **Miko Sanchez** were next on the day's agenda.

Karaoke host, **Patrick Seki**, presented the following talented vocalists: **Reijin Fujita**, **Aki Fukuhara-Vaughn**, **Kiyoshi Igawa**, **Yasuko Katayama**, **Yoshiko Kishimoto**, **Kumiko Masuda**, **George & Katsuko Mori**, **Yoshikuni Okita**, **Yoshiharu Sueoka**, **Hide Tanaka**, **Tsutomu Tsuenaka**, and **Henry Yasuda**.

At the other side of the park, the races and games were going strong hosted by **Larry Fukuhara**. Infants in the arms of their parents, toddlers, kids, teens and adults of all ages had fun racing, tossing balloons, and trying their best not to get caught holding the "atsui" daikon!

Closing out the day was our annual benefit drawing. This year NYK offered two on-line 1-year subscriptions to the **Rafu Shimpo** as prizes.

After each and every picnic-goer received a little something to take home, Arturo thanked everyone for their attendance and continued support. Well see you at next year's picnic! ///



## 2016 Picnic Photos





## 2016 NYK Scholarship Recipient



**Nicole Oshima**

The 2016 Nanka Yamaguchi Kenjinkai Scholarship was awarded to **Nicole Akemi Oshima**, the daughter of **Margaret** and **Brian Oshima**. Though her parents were out of town and unable to attend, Nicole was well-represented by her grandparents and cousins.

Nicole graduated from John Marshall Fundamental Secondary School with a GPA of 3.98 and a 1920 SAT score.

Here is a brief summary of Nicole's reflections as she addressed one of the essay questions, "If you have had the opportunity to visit Yamaguchi Prefecture, what are your fondest memories and why?" Nicole detailed her trip to Kaminoseki at age 10 with her grandparents, **Henry** and **Helen Yasuda**:

1. Feeling so welcomed by the relatives who she was meeting for the first time and visiting the ancestors' burial sites. Those relatives and ancestors shaped how her family lives today, including the morals instilled in them and still practiced today.
2. Visiting the old family house and seeing the following words on a ceiling beam overhead: "A man of ambition leaves his village vowing never to return unless he succeeds." This was the dream that was written by her grandfather many years before.
3. Attending a Japanese elementary school and recognizing how different education is there compared with her schooling here. Though she is grateful to live and learn here in the United States, she appreciates the connection she made to her heritage. The trip was an experience she will never forget.

At Marshall, Nicole served as ASB Vice President from 2015-2016 and a member of the National Honor Society, Marshall Key Club, and Honor Roll.

Described by her AP US Government & Politics teacher: "Nicole was a star performer who routinely displayed her greatest strengths as a student: intellect, determination focus, tenacity and wit."

Nicole will be attending UCLA in the fall. After her freshman year, she will apply to UCLA school of communications.

Congratulations, Nicole, and best wishes for continued success!



**Naomi Suenaka and Arturo Yoshimoto with Nicole Oshima who is flanked by her grandparents, Henry and Helen Yasuda, and Nicole's cousin, Alex Mitoma.**

*Check out the NEW NYK Website!*

<http://yamaguchi-usa.org>



## 2016 JPASC Talent Show

The Japanese Prefectural Association of Southern California (JPASC), formerly known as the Nanka Kenjinkai Kyogikai, is holding its annual talent show at the Aratani Japan America Theatre in Little Tokyo on **Sunday, October 16, 2016**.

This year's event not only awards scholarships and features talented members from Southern California kenjinkais, **event proceeds will go towards the Kumamoto earthquake relief fund**.

We hope you will be able to attend this very enjoyable show. Tickets are \$20. For more information, please contact NYK Board Advisor **Henry Yasuda** at 323-269-4855.

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## In Memoriam Mark Katsumasa Yoshida

May 15, 1941—June 14, 2016



It is with great sadness that we announce the sudden passing of Mark Yoshida. To the members of Nanka Yamaguchi Kenjinkai, Mark was well-known for his willingness to help in any capacity needed. Be it as President of the Young People's Group (Seisonenkai), as Treasurer of the Kenjinkai, or as volunteer extraordinaire at the picnics and many other events...Mark was always ready to

serve. He embraced NYK with a kind and generous spirit which was reflected in all areas of his life.

Mark was born in Los Angeles to Mitsuye and Isamu Yoshida on May 15, 1941. Soon after his birth came the outbreak of WWII. So from 1942 to 1944, Mark's family was interned at Heart Mountain, Wyoming.

After his early school years, Mark graduated from Belmont High School and continued his education at Los Angeles City College. From 1963 to 1965, Mark served in the United States Army as a Personnel Psychology Specialist stationed in Philadelphia, PA. After receiving an Honorable Discharge from the military, Mark returned to Los Angeles and became a landscape gardener.

In 1972, Mark married Koko Imamura and three years later they were delighted to welcome their daughter Caroline. Ten years later, their family would be complete with the birth of their son Clark.

For many years, one of Mark's favorite passions was growing vegetables. He was a member of the Montebello-Simonian Gardens where he made many friends. His family, friends and neighbors can attest to his gardening skills since they were privy to Mark's delicious harvests which he generously enjoyed sharing.

Mark's love of fishing will always be remembered by his longtime friends who shared those good times with him...along with all of those "fish tales." At home, Mark enjoyed listening to jazz music by some of his favorite musicians such as Dave Brubeck and Kenny G. Reading the L.A. Times daily was also a must for Mark. He always looked forward to his travels to Hawaii, Japan, Las Vegas and San Francisco.

Mark will always be remembered as a stalwart role model for us all. He will be missed.

Our deepest condolences are extended to his family.

## 2016 Tanabata Festival Aug 12-15



This year's Tanabata Festival will be held August 12-15 in Little Tokyo. Over one hundred "kazari" (paper decorations) are created and submitted each year by kenjinkais, businesses, community organizations, and local city government members for judging in several categories.

Some of the awards are "Best Theme Creation" and "People's Choice Award".

Nanka Yamaguchi Kenjinkai has been submitting a kazari since 2010 and in 2014, NYK won First Place in the Kenjinkai Category and in 2015, 5th place in the Anime Category. Past winners received a framed art piece, but this year, the "Chairman Award" (best overall) will be awarded \$500 and the winner of each category will receive \$50.

Since the beginning of the festival, former NYK president **Richard Fukuhara** created our entry, but due to other commitments, will not be able to do so this year. Therefore, NYK will not be represented in the 2016 Tanabata Festival.

**NYK is looking for creative members to spearhead the 2017 project (beginning June 2017). Are you able to help? We need:**

- 1) **A kazari designer—someone to design the kazari based on the year's theme**
- 2) **Volunteers to help make the flowers (no artistic talent needed here!)**

**If interested, please email us at:  
NankaYamaguchiKenjinkai@gmail.com**

Although NYK will not have a 2016 kazari, please try to visit the beautiful tanabata exhibit which will be on display in front of The Geffen Contemporary at MOCA which is located next to the Japanese American National Museum (JANM). They will be hanging and flowing in the breeze from August 12-15, 2016. It's a colorful and beautiful sight!

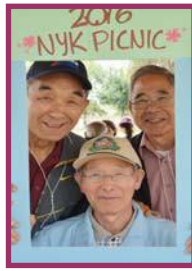
**Also, check out the Tanabata website for photography and poetry contests—new this year. Deadline to enter is July 24.**

<http://www.tanabatalosangeles.org/#!/enter-contests>





## More Picnic Photos



*Photos courtesy of Richard Fukuhara and Steven Tani.*  
Please contact us if you would like copies of these photos.



## 2016 Picnic Special Acknowledgements

Tickets Printing..Arturo Yoshimoto / Ink A Graphics & Signs.  
 Invitations and Tickets Mailing .....Atsuko Kimoto,  
 ..... Naomi Suenaka, Aki Vaughn and Arturo Yoshimoto.  
 Banners and Signs Printing..... Ink A Graphics & Signs.  
 8:00 am Setup .....Board Members, Advisors,  
 .....Larry Fukuhara, and Ann Tani.  
 Kokoro Taiko..... Ron Dam, Victor Fukuhara,  
 ..... Greg Matsuura, Joanne Matsunaga,  
 ..... Katrina Shibata, and Ken Sumida.  
 Mistress of Ceremonies ..... Aki Fukuhara-Vaughn.  
 Hot Dogs Station..... Arturo Yoshimoto/Lea Hayashi Family.  
 Sno-Cone Station..... Kiyoshi Igawa,  
 ..... Bruce Kimura and son, Bryan.  
 Azuki Beans..... Yoshiko Kishimoto.  
 Sno-Cone Flavors .... Richard Fukuhara & Arturo Yoshimoto.  
 Chocolate treats donation..... Miko (Igawa) Sanchez.  
 Candy donation..... Lea Hayashi.  
 Mochi Sauces..... Larry Fukuhara.  
 Drinks & Ice Pick-up ..... Kiyoshi Igawa.  
 Ice Tubs ..... Henry Yasuda.  
 Bento Orders/ Pick-up..... Arlene Nakamura / Larry Fukuhara.  
 Photographers ..... Richard Fukuhara and Steven Tani.  
 Registration Table.....Atsuko Kimoto, Michi Ota,  
 ..... and Naomi Suenaka.  
 Scholarship .....Arlene Nakamura.  
 Scholarship Certificates Designer/Creator.....Margaret Oshima.  
 Face Painting ..... Miko Sanchez.  
 Ondo Captains ..... Yasuko Katayama and Yoshiko Kishimoto.  
 Happi Coat Caretaker..... Naomi Suenaka.  
 Karaoke System & MC.....Patrick Seki.  
 PA System .....Mike Vaughn.  
 Races & Games.....Larry Fukuhara (MC), Carol Fukuhara,  
 ..... Cindy Fukuhara, Richard Fukuhara, Victor Fukuhara,  
 ..... Tony Fukuhara, Millie Tani, Mike & Aki Vaughn,  
 ..... Janice & Scott Warren.  
 Game prize purchases ..... Aki Vaughn.  
 Raffle prize purchases.. Atsuko Kimoto, Millie & Steven Tani.  
 Prize helpers..... Nolan, Remi, Shogo, and Warren.  
 Donations..... Plants from Harry Yonemura of ABC Nursery,  
 Larry Fukuhara, and Eunice Kamimura.

ありがとう

*If we missed anyone, gomen-nasai!*

### Questions? Suggestions? Comments?

Email us at  
[Nanka.Yamaguchi.Kenjinkai@gmail.com](mailto: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!

 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 June 12, 2016 NYK Picnic. ///

*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

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