

# Nanka Yamaguchi Kenjinkai Newsletter



Volume IV, Issue 4

4th Quarter 2015

## 4th Yamaguchi Kenjinkai World Grand Meeting 110th Nanka Yamaguchi Kenjinkai Anniversary November 14 & 15, 2015

Nanka Yamaguchi Kenjinkai (NYK) is hosting the 4th Yamaguchi Kenjinkai World Grand Meeting on Saturday, November 14 & Sunday, November 15, 2015. Your NYK Board members have been working very hard to coordinate the event with Yamaguchi, Japan and delegates from Brazil, Peru, Mexico, Hawaii, and Northern California.

Nearly 90 delegates, including the **Yamaguchi Governor Tsugumasa Muraoka**, will be arriving on Thursday, November 12 and Friday, November 13 to attend the following events:

### Friday, Nov 13—Meetings

Yamaguchi, Japan government officials will meet with Los Angeles Japanese-American Organizations.

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### Saturday, Nov 14—Ceremony / Luncheon

**New Time: 11:30 AM—4:30 PM**

The World Grand Meeting Conference  
110th Nanka Yamaguchi Kenjinkai Anniversary  
Doubletree Hotel

**\*\*\* Seats are no longer available \*\*\***

**If you have RSVP'd and can volunteer to help set up the event from 6:00 AM—11:00 AM, please let us know.**

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### Sunday, Nov 15—Youth Cultural Exchange Meeting

Morning (Time to be announced soon!)  
Nerio Education Center  
Japanese American National Museum

Hosted by the Brazilian Youth Group, this meeting is an opportunity for our younger members to meet and mingle with youth from Brazil, Peru and Japan as they discuss establishing a cultural exchange program.

If you'd like to attend the Youth Cultural Exchange Meeting, please contact Arlene Nakamura at 626-221-4271 or at [arlenenakamura@gmail.com](mailto:arlenenakamura@gmail.com).

### ***We Need the Help of our NYK Members!***

NYK would like to make this event as successful as possible and we are asking for help from our members. We are looking for the following assistance:

1. Monetary donations to help offset our costs of the **110th Nanka Yamaguchi Kenjinkai Anniversary luncheon** will be greatly appreciated.
2. Los Angeles/California-related gift bag items for our international delegates.
3. Help with Registration and Hospitality on Thursday, November 12 and Friday, November 13 when delegates arrive at the Doubletree Hotel.
4. Help decorating, setting up and breaking down of the luncheon ceremony on Saturday, November 15. Set up time from 6:00 AM—11:00 AM.
5. We may need volunteers to escort delegates who may want to tour Los Angeles/Hollywood.

### ***2 Host Families Needed!***

Two university students from Yamaguchi Prefecture will be attending the 4th Yamaguchi Kenjinkai World Grand Meeting. **We are looking for two families, preferably with children around university/high school age (not mandatory), to host the students for two or three days during the World Grand Meeting.**

Both students speak English. One student has studied in the U.S. and the other in Finland. At this time, we do not know the gender of the students. However, we will send out an email blast as soon as we have that information.

If you can help, please contact Naomi Suenaka at [Nsuenaka@gmail.com](mailto:Nsuenaka@gmail.com) or 562-695-8700.

Thank you!

## “Keiro no Hi”

Every third Monday in September, Japan celebrates “Keiro no Hi”, a national day to honor its elder citizens. For many years Nanka Yamaguchi Kenjinkai has celebrated this holiday as one of its community service events.

On September 21, NYK members brought a little bit of music and dance to the residents of the Keiro Nursing Home in Lincoln Heights, Los Angeles. Familiar Japanese songs were sung and the residents were encouraged to join in. Several of our members then danced “Tanko Bushi” and “Iwakuni Ondo”. As is our custom, NYK donated two boom boxes to the Keiro home and distributed pink manju and *ocha* (Japanese tea) to the attendees.

Many thanks to our NYK members: **Richard Fukuhara, Yuki Fukumoto, Kiyoshi & Wakiko Igawa, Ayako & Reijin Fujita, Tomiko Hirshfield, Yasuko Katayama, Yoshiko Kishimoto, Mieko Nakamura, Michi Otaya, Aiko Sakamura, Aki & Mike Vaughn, Helen & Henry Yasuda**, and NYK president **Arturo Yoshimoto**.

We encourage more NYK members to attend next year. We promise that you will leave with a lightness in your step and with a good feeling in your heart.



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## Memorial Service Canceled

Every October Nanka Yamaguchi Kenjinkai has held a memorial service to honor members who have passed on during the year. However, due to low attendance at past services and logistical difficulty, it has been decided to hold a moment of silent prayer for the departed during the annual Shinnenkai in January.

We hope our NYK members will understand and support this decision.

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## 2015 L.A. Tanabata Festival Results



Nanka Yamaguchi Kenjinkai garnered 5th place in the Anime division with its *kazari* (decoration) at the 2015 Los Angeles Tanabata Festival! The *kazari*'s design was inspired by “Choruru”, the Yamaguchi, Japan mascot. The body was constructed and designed by brothers **Richard** and **Trace Fukuhara**, and the paper flowers were made by NYK members **Richard Fukuhara, Michiko Otaya, Naomi Suenaka, Millie** and **Steven Tani, Aki Vaughn, and Candace Watase**. Congratulations and thank you to all our members for their dedication and time. A special thank you to Naomi for the use of her beautiful home.

### Anime / Manga Division Winners

First Place: Fugetsu-Do Employees (Koko Kawabe)  
 Second Place: America Miyazaki Kenjinkai  
 Third Place: LA Gedatsu Church  
 Fourth Place: Little Tokyo Historical Society  
 Fifth Place: Nanka Yamaguchi Kenjinkai

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## Sei Fujii Memorial Marker Unveiled

On August 1st, a memorial monument to honor the late publisher and civil rights activist, **Sei Fujii**, was unveiled to the public. The marker, an eight-foot tall lantern made of galvanized steel, was designed by **Miles Endo** and is located on Second Street in the Japanese Village.



The project was spearheaded by the Little Tokyo Historical Society which raised over \$30,000 to fund the monument. An Iwakuni, Yamaguchi native, Mr. Fujii received his law degree in 1911 at USC, but because he was an Issei and not an American citizen, he was unable to practice law. With the help of Attorney J. Marion Wright, he challenged the constitutionality of the Alien Land Law which thereby led to its nullification in 1952. (*Fujii v. California* (1952))

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**.

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## NYK Member News

### Richard Fukuhara Receives Pioneer Award

Nanka Yamaguchi Kenjinkai congratulates former NYK president, **Richard Fukuhara**, who received the 2015 Nisei Week Pioneer Award on August 19 at the Doubletree Hotel. NYK was well represented at the event: Also receiving a Pioneer Award was **David Yanai**, brother of former NYK Board Secretary, **France Yanai-Wong**. NYK member and the President of the 75th Nisei Week Foundation, **Terry Hara**, shared the dais with the four other Pioneer Award recipients, community dignitaries and Los Angeles Japan Consul General, the **Honorable Harry Horinouchi** and **Madame Sabine Horinouchi**.



*Richard Fukuhara receives the 2015 Pioneer Award from Los Angeles Japan Consul General, the **Honorable Harry Horinouchi**, **Madame Sabine Horinouchi**, and 2015 Nisei Week Queen, **Sara Hutter**.*

—Photo Steven Tani

### Henry Yasuda—A Soldier for Two Countries



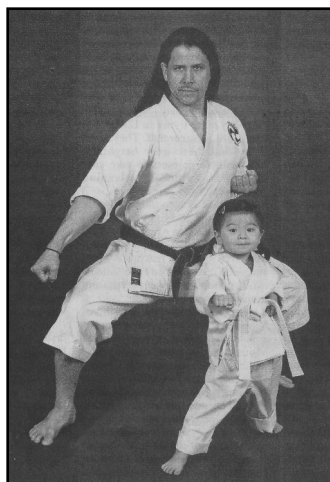
World War II. The other photo Henry is holding is of himself when he served in the United States Army (MIS) during the Korean War. Thank you for your service, Henry!

Did you see the front page photo of NYK Board Advisor, **Henry Yasuda**? Henry was featured in the August 20th issue of the *Rafu Shimpo* with the caption, "Soldier for Two Countries". He was shown with a photo of himself when he was enrolled in the prestigious Japanese Etajima Naval Academy during

### William Ford Helps St. Jude's

In 2014, NYK member **William Ford**, coordinated martial arts exhibitions to help raise \$14,000 for the St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. This year, the goal was \$15,000, but that was surpassed when \$16,000 was raised!

William invited select martial arts schools and renown martial arts specialists. Participants were Sensei Kahea Kamehele, NKD Martial Arts, Shugyokan, Matsubayashi Shorin Ryu of Little Tokyo, Abad-Mancia Martial Arts, Ohana Mar-



*William Ford poses with one of his young students.*

tial Arts, Progressive Martial Arts, Progressive Martial Arts, Yamano's Shorin Ryu, Lion's Pride Kung Fu, Claremont Karate Kung Fu, Ted Taura Karate, Knights Martial Arts, Active Martial Arts, Shield Karate, Sensei Nick Rubio, Sensei Ayuma Oda, Sensei Janet Goliger, Sifu Rob Moses, and members of **Sensei William Ford's Kaizen Dojo of Torrance**.

Master Hall of Fame, **Daryl Vidal**, one of William's fel-

low actors from the movie "Karate Kid", came to support the event, as well as, actor **Gerald Okamura** ("Big Trouble in Little China" and "Kickin' It"). Taiko groups and hula dance teams entertained the large crowd.

William performed the "Parasol" *odori* (dance) and thrilled everyone with his very dangerous Okinawan demonstration using rope and sickle.

Congratulations, William, for all that you do. You make us proud!

—See *Rafu Shimpo*, September 19, 2015

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Let us know if you have news to share!

Contact Arlene Nakamura

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or Aki Vaughn

at [aki@vaughnlawoffice.com](mailto:aki@vaughnlawoffice.com) / 562-234-5702.



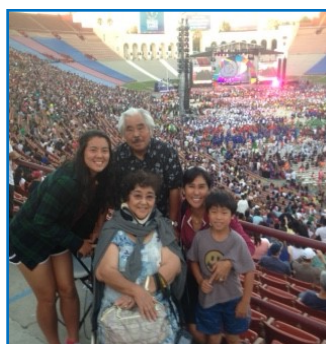
## Yamaguchi, Japan & Special Olympics



Los Angeles was the setting for the very successful 2015 Special Olympics World Summer Games which opened on July 25, 2015. The games featured competitions in aquatics, gymnastics, track and field, basketball, football (soccer) and many other summer sports involving 6,500 athletes with intellectual disabilities from 165 nations.

Yamaguchi, Japan was represented by a team of enthusiastic athletes who were hosted by citizens of West Covina. NYK members **Millie** and **Steven Tani** (pictured below left), the **Kiyoshi** and **Wakiko Igawa Family** (pictured below right), and **Richard Fukuhara** attended some of the events. Reported Richard, "the kids were a joy to watch—such focus and dedication. Their sweet disposition and display of sportsmanship was an inspiration that brought tears to my eyes!"

Congratulations to the Yamaguchi team!



## JPA Talent Show

The Japan Prefectural Association of So Cal (JPA) is now the new name for the Nanka Kenjinkai Kyogikai (the association of all Southern California kenjinkai).

On October 18 JPA will hold its annual talent show to feature members from Fukuoka, Wakayama, Hiroshima, Okinawa, to name a few. The second half of the show will star a renown singer from Japan. Last year's show was very enjoyable and we encourage you to attend. Don't miss it!

Sun., October 18, 2015	Aratani Japan America Theatre
1:00 PM	244 S. San Pedro St.
\$20.00	Los Angeles

For information or tickets, please contact:  
Henry Yasuda at 323-269-4855.

## Tee-Shirt Fundraiser



A tee-shirt that celebrates the upcoming 4th Yamaguchi Kenjinkai World Grand Meeting in November is available for a cost of \$20.00.

Modeled here by NYK member and designer, **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 Kenjinkai World Grand Meeting. 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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Yamaguchi-Kenjinkai-Los Angeles](http://www.facebook.com/Yamaguchi-Kenjinkai-Los-Angeles)



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