

Nanka Yamaguchi Kenjinkai Newsletter



Volume VIII, Issue 2

2nd Quarter 2019

Fun at the 2019 NYK Picnic!

Attendees at the 2019 NYK picnic had a blast at this year's picnic in more ways than one. Though it was extraordinarily hot, it was lots of fun! Approximately 200 gathered under the trees or brought their own tents to enjoy a full day with family members and old friends.



**NYK President
Arturo Yoshimoto**

The day's festivities opened with a wonderful performance by **Kokoro Taiko**. NYK President **Arturo Yoshimoto** welcomed everyone and introduced VIPs: **JK Yamamoto**, writer from The Rafu Shimpo; **Susumu Maki**, Tottori Club president and Nanka Kenjinkai Kyogikai representative; **Yoshi Okita**, president of Nanka Kumamoto Kenjinkai;

Yoshitaka Morioka, Hiroshima Kenjinkai representative; and **Takako Casebeer**, Gunma Kenjinkai representative.

Arlene Nakamura, former NYK president and Chair of the Scholarship Committee, introduced this year's scholarship recipients (see page 2 for article).

Before lunch was announced, attendees were invited to enjoy complimentary soft drinks, water and juice; hot dogs, chili and rice; and delicious shaved ice. Our talented member, **Miko Igawa-Sanchez**, was available for anyone who wanted to have their face painted.

This year, 150 bento were pre-ordered by our members—almost double that of the previous year. We decided to use a new vendor who would deliver the lunches and chose **Tozai Market**. Reviews on the tastiness of the lunch were favorable.

Patrick Seki, former NYK president and Karaoke MC, brought in his new karaoke system that contained over 35,000 songs in several languages. Several of NYK's talented singers entertained during lunch with songs in Japanese, English, and Spanish.

Julia and **Derek Fukuhara**, the daughter and son of our late president, **Richard Fukuhara**, brought many pieces of their dad's artwork for anyone to take home as a remembrance of Richard.

After lunch **Aki Fukuhara-Vaughn** taught participants the Coal Miner's dance, "Tanko Bushi". Helping out were dance captains **Harper Olmon**, **Kristin Kimura**, and **Kevin Lee**. Proving that "Tanko Bushi" is universal, it was danced to DNCE's "Cake by the Ocean".

Children were then asked to gather to catch bags of candy which were donated by the **Lea Hayashi family**. White and pink mochi were next tossed out to all picnic-goers.

Following the mochi-maki, our traditional group photo was taken by Derek Fukuhara (see page 4).

Races and games followed and this year, they were held in the main picnic area. Races were grouped for boys and girls 3 & under; 4-6; 7-10; 11-14; and 15-18, followed by games for all ages which included a 3-legged race, water balloon games and the always fun "hot daikon".



Hot Daikon Game
*The last two standing!
Who would be caught
holding the "hot" daikon?*



**Which team will toss the
most water balloons
in the basket?**

(Continued on page 4)

2019 NYK Scholarships Awarded to Five Graduates

Paige Fukuhara has played an active role in NYK for many years, volunteering to help at events whenever needed. She will start her college experience at Long Beach Community College and transfer to Cal State University, Long Beach. Because of her love of animals, her goal is to become a marine biologist or a veterinarian. Paige's parents are **Tony** and **Carol Fukuhara** and her Yamaguchi blood relatives are grandfather **Victor Fukuhara** and great-grandfather **Henry Kiyoshi Fukuhara**.

Grace Hirai, daughter of **Steve** and **Maile Hirai**, will be attending UCLA, with a major in Cognitive Science. She is also considering a double major or minor in Educational Public Policy or Educational Neuroscience. Her overall goal is to improve current school curriculum and policies for the betterment of education for students in the future. Her Yamaguchi blood relatives are grandmother **Nancy Hirai** and great-grandmother **Sumiye Suzuki**.

Allison Ohara will attend USC with a major in Physics and Computer Science. During her undergraduate years, she plans to take advantage of research opportunities to gain the knowledge and the experience needed for graduate school. There she will pursue a Masters of Science in Physics degree. Allison is the daughter of **Gregg** and **Stacy Ohara** and her Yamaguchi blood relatives are grandmother **Hideko Tanaka** and great-grandfather **Kiyoto Tanaka**.

Chet Oshima's connection with Yamaguchi began with his first visit there at age 7. Guided by his Jichan, he toured the streets of Kaminoseki and even attended school with the Japanese students for a day. Chet will attend the University of Hawaii at Manoa. Though he will major in Pre-Nursing, he also plans to explore paths in Computer Science and Engineering. Chet's



2019 NYK Scholarship Recipients
NYK President Arturo Yoshimoto and NYK Scholarship Committee Chair Arlene Nakamura congratulate Chet Oshima, Samantha Yasuda, and Paige Fukuhara. Not pictured: Grace Hirai and Allison Ohara were unable to attend due to conflicting schedules.

parents are **Margaret Yasuda** and **Brian Oshima**. His Yamaguchi blood relatives are grandfather Henry Yasuda and great-grandparents **Seichi** and **Tsuru Yasuda**.

Samantha Yasuda, daughter of **Richard** and **Jane Yasuda**, was a freshman in high school when she visited Yamaguchi with her family. That trip gave her a new perspective of her ancestors' lives and a better understanding of what makes her who she is today. Samantha will attend UC Irvine where she will pursue a degree in Biology with the possibility of going on to Pre-Med. Her Yamaguchi blood relatives are grandfather **Henry Yasuda** and great-grandparents **Seichi** and **Tsuru Yasuda**.

Congratulations to Our 2019 Awardees!



2019 NYK Scholarship Recipients Pose with their Families.



Picnic—Cont'd.

The long-awaited drawing of prizes was the last event on the schedule. A big thank you to those who donated prizes: one-gallon plants from **Harry Yonemura** of ABC Nursery; plumeria stalks courtesy of **Eunice Kamimura**; six \$5 In-N-Out Burger gift cards donated by **Bruce & Lorraine Kimura**, and a \$25 gift card for Starbucks from **Aki & Mike Vaughn**.

After the top cash prizes of \$500, \$250, and \$100 were awarded, the picnic closed for another year. Arturo Yoshimoto thanked everyone for attending with wishes of seeing everyone next year!



Thank you NYK Picnic Helpers!

Picnic Set up..... *Manami, Kysa and Remi Hayashi,*
 *Victor Fukuhara, Bruce Kimura, Kevin Lee,*
 *Laura Lee, Patrick Seki, Alex Shimizu,*
 *Mike & Aki Vaughn, Clark Yoshida,*
 *Fred Yoshida, and Arturo Yoshimoto.*
 Registration..... *Atsu Kimoto, Michi Ota,*
 *and Naomi Suenaka.*
 Bento Orders..... *Arlene Nakamura, Atsu Kimoto,*
 *Michi Ota, and Naomi Suenaka.*
 Picnic Supplies *Laura Lee, Mike & Aki Vaughn,*
 *Naomi Suenaka, Henry Yasuda, and Arturo Yoshimoto.*
 Sno-Cone..... *Victor, Masako, Cindy, and Trace Fukuhara.*
 Scholarship Certificates Creator *Margaret Yasuda.*
 Face Painting *Miko Igawa-Sanchez.*
 Dance Captains..... *Kristin Kimura, Kevin Lee,*
 *Harper Olmon, and Aki Vaughn.*
 Hot Dogs, Chili, & Rice Donation..... *Arturo Yoshimoto.*
 Candy Donation..... *Lea Hayashi.*
 Mochi Order & Pick-up..... *Laura Lee.*
 Mochi Wrapping..... *Michi Ota, Helen Yasuda,*
 *Mike & Aki Vaughn, and Arturo Yoshimoto.*
 Karaoke MC & System..... *Patrick Seki.*
 Sound System..... *Patrick Seki, Mike Vaughn,*
 *and Henry Yasuda.*
 Kokoro Taiko..... *Victor Fukuhara, Ken Sumida,*
 *Joann Matsunaga, Gregg Matsuura,*
 *Darren Yomogida, and Ken Kono.*
 Games & Races *Aki & Mike Vaughn,*
 *Cindy, Carol, and Joann Fukuhara,*
 *Erin Masuda, and Mike Trozzo.*
 Game Prizes Purchases *Aki Vaughn.*
 Rafu Shimpo Representative *JK Yamamoto.*
 Rafu E-Subscriptions Pick up..... *Florence Ochi.*
 Prize Drawing Purchases..... *Atsu Kimoto.*
 Prize Donations..... *Eunice Kamimura (Plumerias),*
 *Bruce & Lorraine Kimura (In-N-Out Gift Cards),*
 *Mike & Aki Vaughn (Starbucks Gift Card),*
 *Harry Yonemura (ABC Nursery plants).*
 Prize Drawing Helpers..... *Thanks to all the kiddies!*
 Photographers..... *Derek Fukuhara, Laura Lee,*
 *Keiko Yamasaki, and Arturo Yoshimoto.*

Arigato!



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Facebook	Yamaguchi-Kenjinkai-Los Angeles
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Website	http://yamaguchi-usa.org
Email	Nanka.Yamaguchi.Kenjinkai@gmail.com

World Grand Meeting—Dates Set

Yamaguchi, Japan will host the 5th Yamaguchi Kenjinkai World Grand Meeting (WGM) on **NOVEMBER 10-12, 2020 (Tuesday-Thursday) in Iwakuni City.**

Nov 10: World Grand Meeting Ceremony & Reception
Nov 11: Touring Yamaguchi Prefecture
Nov 12: Touring Yamaguchi Prefecture

The purpose of the grand meeting is to gather Yamaguchi kenjinkai partners from around the world 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.

The NYK Board will be working with a travel agent to plan the itinerary. **If you are interested in attending the World Grand Meeting, please email us at: Nanka.Yamaguchi.Kenjinkai@gmail.com and we will add you to our list.**

- Let us know -

- If you have news to share
- How we can improve our events, etc.
- If you'd like to be more involved with NYK Or...?

All Comments and Suggestions are Welcome!

Contact

Arlene Nakamura—arlenenakamura@gmail.com

Aki Vaughn—aki@vaughnlawoffice.com

Or

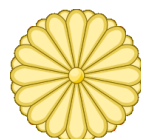
Email us at Nanka.Yamaguchi.Kenjinkai@gmail.com

New Era Begins in Japan

After the abdication of **Emperor Akihito** at the age of 85, his elder son, **Naruhito**, 59, ascended to the Chrysanthemum throne on May 1, 2019, marking the end of the Heisei era and the beginning of the Reiwa ("beautiful harmony") era. The official coronation will be held on October 22, 2019.



Naruhito has become the 126th emperor of the world's oldest monarchy. Born on February 23, 1960, he attended Japanese schools and graduated in 1982 from Gakushuin University with a Bachelor of Letters degree in History. He studied English extensively before entering Merton College, Oxford University in the United Kingdom.



On June 9, 1993, Naruhito wed **Masako Owada**, who had worked at the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs. She gave up her goal towards a diplomatic career when she wed the Crown Prince and became the 3rd commoner to wed into the imperial family. The new emperor and empress have one child, **Aiko, Princess Toshi** (age 17).

Naruhito is interested in water conservation. He plays the viola and enjoys jogging, hiking, and mountaineering.



Nanka Yamaguchi Kenjinkai

2019 Board Officers

Arturo Yoshimoto	President
Florence Ochi	Vice President
Aki Fukuhara-Vaughn	Recording Secretary
Laura Lee	Corresponding Secretary
Naomi Suenaka	Treasurer

2019 Board Members: Atsuko Kimoto, Arlene Nakamura, Michiko Otaya, Mike Vaughn, and Helen & Henry Yasuda.

2019 Board Advisors: Victor Fukuhara, Rev. Kiyoshi Igawa, and Patrick Seki.

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Instagram	Laura Lee
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Newsletter Creator & Publisher	Aki Fukuhara-Vaughn