



# Nanka Yamaguchi Kenjinkai Newsletter



Volume VI, Issue 1

1st Quarter 2017

## NYK Members Welcome in 2017



**NYK President  
Arturo Yoshimoto.**

After a few days of what the weatherman called "the southland's worst rain-storm", the sun came out for the Nanka Yamaguchi Kenjinkai Shinnen-enkai luncheon at the Quiet Cannon on February 19. In attendance were almost 80 members, including quite a few from Generations X & Z.

Emcee **Aki Fukuhara-Vaughn** welcomed everyone and introduced club president, **Arturo Yoshimoto**, who delivered "Happy New Year" greetings to all and announced the 2017 NYK Board officers:

### 2017 NYK Board

President, **Arturo Yoshimoto**  
Secretary, **Aki Vaughn**

Vice President, **Millie Tani**  
Treasurer, **Naomi Suenaka**

Before lunch was served, **Henry Yasuda** led everyone in a *kam-pai* toast and **Rev. Kiyoshi Igawa** delivered the invocation.

After a delicious lunch, Karaoke Master of Ceremony **Patrick Seki** introduced each of our talented singers: **Yoshiko Kishimoto**, **Ayako** and **Reijin Fujita**, **Rev. Kiyoshi Igawa**, **Aki Vaughn**, and **Henry Yasuda**.

Long-time NYK member, **Mrs. Mitsuko Yamamoto**, who turned 100 years old on March 22, was recognized with a proclamation from the **City of Alhambra** and a commendation from NYK. Mrs. Yamamoto, who many of us call "Mama-san", is the mother of **Arlene Nakamura** and **Elaine Koyama**.

Next on the agenda was the highlight of our annual new year's luncheon—the honoring of members 80 and 80+ years of age.

**Seventeen** members were introduced and each was presented a gift bag adorned with a "rooster"



**Mrs. Mitsuko Yamamoto**  
pictured with **Shogo** and  
**Remi Hayashi**, children of  
NYK president  
**Arturo Yoshimoto**.

PHOTO BY BRUCE THOMPSON

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*Save the Date!*

## NYK Picnic - June 11

Once again, the NYK picnic will be held in Monterey Park at George Elder Park. Please mark your calendars!

When: Sunday, June 11, 2017 (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, prizes and much, much more! As always, bento boxes will be on sale.

Watch your mailbox for the drawing tickets for prizes and additional information which will be arriving soon. We'll see you there!

## 2017 NYK Scholarship Applications



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

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

The scholarship application forms can be downloaded from our Facebook page at [Yamaguchi-Kenjinkai-Los Angeles](https://www.facebook.com/Yamaguchi-Kenjinkai-Los-Angeles) or on our website at <http://yamaguchi-usa.org>.

For any questions, please contact:  
Scholarship Chairperson: **Arlene Nakamura**  
Email: [arlenenakamura@gmail.com](mailto:arlenenakamura@gmail.com)  
Phone: 626.281.6548

**See scholarship documents for deadline.**

The recipient(s) will be awarded their scholarships at our annual picnic on Sunday, June 11, 2017.



## 2017 Shinnen-Enkai Photos

PHOTOS BY BRUCE THOMPSON  
AND STEVEN TANI



## 2017 Senior Honorees



Front row l-r: Hisako Nagamine, Toshiko Katsumoto, Yasuko Katayama, Umeno Ford, Masako Kawamura, Yoshiko Monji, Mitsuko Yamamoto, and Mitsuko Ono. Back row l-r: Hideo Morikawa, Haruko Morikawa, Reijin Fujita, Yoshiko Kishimoto, Helen Yasuda, Henry Yasuda, Masaki Matsubara, Fujiko Matsubara, and Mizuki Fujimoto.

PHOTO BY RICHARD FUKUHARA.





## 2018 “Finding Your Roots” Tour of Japan

The Nanka Yamaguchi Kenjinkai Board members are in the beginning stages of planning a “Finding Your Roots” tour of Japan in 2018. We hope you and your family members will be able to join us! Please read below.



JAPAN



YAMAGUCHI

### Nanka Yamaguchi Kenjinkai

## 2018 JAPAN TOUR

### FINDING YOUR ROOTS

KINTAIKYO BRIDGE  
IWAKUNIITSUKUSHIMA SHRINE  
MIYAJIMA

#### Are you interested in finding your roots in Yamaguchi, Japan?

We are in the beginning stages of planning a trip to Japan. We will begin in Tokyo and travel to Kyoto, Osaka, Hiroshima and end with an exploration of Yamaguchi Prefecture.

After touring Yamaguchi and seeing some major sites before returning to Tokyo, you will have time to visit your “hometown” on your own. Perhaps you will: meet your relatives; visit the homes where your ancestors lived and worked; pay respects at the graves of your ancestors; and enjoy experiencing local dishes.

Please sign up if you are interested in participating in this fun and educational trip.

A meeting for all interested parties will be arranged at which time details of the trip will be planned, including date, cost, hotels, etc.

*Have an adventure with your family on the Bullet Train or the town local!*

STREET OF SAMURAI  
HAGIRURIKOJI TEMPLE  
YAMAGUCHI CITY

### EAT AND LEARN ABOUT SOME OF THE DELICIOUS FOODS FROM YAMAGUCHI



IWAKUNI SUSHI



NABEMONO



BARI SOBA



FUGU



MIKAN

## 2017 Shinnen-enkai (Cont'd from p1)



memo holder. Inside each bag was a fan decorated with the "choruru" (Yamaguchi-ken's mascot) and other goodies. Kudos to **Steven** and **Millie Tani** for creating the imaginative gifts, as well as the table centerpieces!

A "2016 Year in Review" slide presentation, created by **Richard Fukuhara**, showed our members having fun at last year's Shinnen-enkai and annual picnic.

**Naomi Suenaka** next hosted the popular and always fun Bingo games with the assistance of Remi and Shogo Hayashi.

Door prizes were then distributed to all attendees by our NYK youngsters.

To close out the luncheon, everyone stood to sing NYK's signature song, "Ue o Muite Aruko-o", better known as "Sukiyaki". Arturo thanked everyone for attending and wished one and all a wonderful 2017! And with that, the luncheon ended with smiling faces and promises to see each other at our upcoming picnic.

### *New Year's Luncheon Special Acknowledgments*

Richard Fukuhara, Warren Fukuhara,  
Kysa, Lea, Manami, Remi & Shogo Hayashi,  
Rev. Kiyoshi Igawa, Atsuko Kimoto,  
Yoshiko Kishimoto, Arlene Nakamura,  
Florence Ochi, Michi Ota, Patrick Seki,  
Naomi Suenaka, Millie & Steven Tani (*Photographer*),  
Ann Tani, Bruce Thompson (*Photographer*),  
Mike & Aki Vaughn, Helen & Henry Yasuda,  
and Arturo Yoshimoto.

*Thank you for all your help!*

### Questions? Suggestions? Comments?

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

Please add this to your email account 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!



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.



**Yamaguchi-Kenjinkai-Los Angeles**

Website: <http://yamaguchi-usa.org>



## Nanka Yamaguchi Kenjinkai

### 2017 Board

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Aki Fukuhara-Vaughn .....Secretary  
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Atsuko Kimoto, Arlene Nakamura, Florence Ochi, Michiko  
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& Henry Yasuda.

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