



Nanka Yamaguchi Kenjinkai Newsletter



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3rd Quarter 2018

10th Annual Los Angeles Tanabata Festival

The Nanka Yamaguchi Kenjinkai (NYK) participated in the 10th Annual Los Angeles Tanabata Festival which took place August 10-12, 2018 during Nisei Week. NYK's entry took 4th Place—one better than last year! Congratulations to the creators: NYK members **Aki Fukuhara-Vaughn** and **Trace Fukuhara!**

Story of the Tanabata

Over 2000 years ago, according to Chinese folklore, two stars, Vega (a weaver) and Altair (a cow herder), fell in love and married.

The Sky King, Vega's father, unhappy with the lovers for no longer carrying for their respective duties of weaving fabrics and tending to the herd, separated the lovers to opposite sides of the river, the Milky Way.

However, the Sky King allowed the lovers to meet once a year on July 7th. On that date, a flock of magpies link their wings together to form a bridge. If it rained, the magpies were not able to fly and the lovers would have to wait for a full year. "Earthlings" began writing wishes on pieces of paper and hanging them on bamboo trees.

In the 700s, Japan adopted the Star Festival known now as the Tanabata Festival. After World War II, the City of Sendai began its version of the Tanabata Festival by creating kazaris (decorations).

Today, the City of Sendai, Miyagi Prefecture, Japan, hosts the largest Tanabata Festival in the world with over 7,000 Tanabata Kazaris hanging throughout the City.

The flower-papered ball represents the Universe, the ring represents the Milky Way, and the streamers represent wishes. The streamers and special paper used for making the L.A. kazari



2018 NYK Kazari

are from Sendai. Every year, Sendai sends several very large kazaris which are displayed in front of JANM and MOCA.

2018 Los Angeles Tanabata Festival

In keeping with this year's theme, "Spirit of Togetherness", NYK's kazari featured 3 peace symbols in various colors. The streamers were adorned with clip arts of ethnic children holding hands, cut-out hearts, the words "love", and "Coexist".

Categories		
Founder's Award	People's Choice	Anime
Business	Government	Theme
Family/Individual	So Cal Kenjinkai	Non-Profit

JPASC (So Cal Kenjinkai) Winners

1st Place	L.A. Yamanishi
2nd Place	Hiroshima Kenjinkai
3rd Place	Hiroshima Kenjinkai
4th Place	Nanka Yamaguchi Kenjinkai
5th Place	America Miyazaki Kenjinkai

The kazaris are displayed for only 3 days, so if you haven't visited the Tanabata Festival, please try to attend next August. It is a beautiful sight to behold!

Yamaguchi City's Chouchin Matsuri

Yamaguchi City celebrates its own Tanabata Festival—the *Chouchin Matsuri* (Lantern Festival). This traditional festival has been passed down for 500 years. Tens of thousands of red lanterns illuminate the city and a variety of events are held for 2 days in early August. Catch this beautiful spectacle if you can!



Upcoming Events

JPASC Scholarship/Talent Show

The Japanese Prefectural Association of Southern California (formerly known as the Nanka Kenjinkai Kyogikai) will be presenting its annual Scholarship Fundraising Charity and Talent Show on October 21.

The show features amazing talent from Southern California kenjinkais and awards scholarships to young kenjinkai members who are broadening Japanese culture through education and/or Japanese arts.

Also showcased will be a well-known singer from Japan.

Date: Sunday, October 21, 2018
Time: 1:00 PM
Location: Aratani Theatre, Little Tokyo
Tickets: \$20.00



For more information, contact JPASC: Kazuhiko Nishimoto (714) 898-7602 or Noriko Shibata (213) 264-0077.

“Finding Your Roots” Seminar

NYK Board members are working on plans to hold a “Finding Your Roots” seminar. Even if your family has a “Koseki” (a family register), researching your family roots in Japan is a very difficult process. So, if you are planning a trip to Yamaguchi, it is important that you research your roots prior to going to Japan. This seminar will help you immensely with your search.

The “Finding Your Roots” seminar comes highly recommended by a few NYK Board members who attended a condensed version presented by Chester Hashizume.

We will keep you posted when details are finalized via email and at the New Year’s luncheon. If you have interest in attending this seminar, please contact **Florence Ochi** at fochi@att.net.

Yamaguchi World Grand Meeting

The Yamaguchi Government is planning its 5th World Grand Meeting in Yamaguchi, Japan, to take place in the **Fall of 2020**. The purpose of the World Grand Meeting (WGM) is to strengthen bonds with Yamaguchi Prefecture, and promote a network between Yamaguchi and her Kenjinkai members in California, Hawaii, Mexico, Brazil, Peru, Argentina, and China.

NYK Board Members who are planning to attend the WGM may add side trips to other tourists sites such as Tokyo, Osaka, Kyoto, and Hiroshima. Let us know if you have any interest in attending the WGM at our gmail address or call Aki at 562-234-5702.



Like Us on Facebook

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 25th New Year’s Luncheon and June 10th NYK Picnic.

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.

Questions? Suggestions? Comments?
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Yamaguchi-Kenjinkai-Los Angeles



Nanka Yamaguchi Kenjinkai

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