

# Nanka Yamaguchi Kenjinkai Newsletter



Volume III, Issue 3

3rd Quarter 2014

## 109th Nanka Yamaguchi Kenjinkai Picnic—June 22, 2014

Our annual picnic and biggest event of the year was once again held at the private Elysian Park's Monticello Leo Politi Picnic Ground on June 22. Picnic-goers enjoyed wonderful weather, great food and a day filled with fun with family and old friends.



Our favorite taiko group, **Kokoro Taiko**, opened the program. Each year, these young and talented players travel from Long

Beach and Orange County to entertain us. We sincerely appreciate their dedication to our club.

Mistress of Ceremonies, **Aki Fukuhara-Vaughn**, welcomed everyone and introduced NYK President, **Richard Fukuhara**, who gave a few words of welcome and officially opened the 109th Nanka Yamaguchi Kenjinkai picnic.

**Arlene Nakamura**, Scholarship Chairperson, announced that there were no graduating high school seniors this year and therefore no scholarships would be awarded. She was assured by some members that there will be eligible seniors next year.

Lunch was announced at 12:00 and for those who didn't bring their own enjoyed *oishii* (delicious) pre-ordered bento lunches from **Nijiya Market** in Torrance and complimentary hot dogs grilled by **Arturo Yoshimoto**. Soft drinks, juices and water were provided as well as sno-cones and *azuki* (sweet beans), perfectly cooked by **Yoshiko Kishimoto** and **Yasuko Katayama**.



After lunch, everyone gathered in the plaza area for the traditional mochi toss. This year, there were two pieces of paper with "Yama" "guchi" hidden in two baggies and the lucky people who caught them received Japa-

nese crackers. Ondo followed and was led by dance captains, **Yasuko Katayama** and **Yoshiko Kishimoto**. **Arlene Nakamura** then taught guys and gals a very fun line dance.



The microphone was then handed over to **Patrick Seki**, Karaoke MC, who invited our many talented members to entertain with Japanese and English songs. During the day, the **Igawa** sisters, **Miko Sanchez** and **Kaz Fong**, treated the kiddies and adults to face painting.



At the other side of the picnic grounds, **Trace Fukuhara**, called the games that included races for the *kodomo tachi* (children) from infants to 13 years of age. Then kids and seniors participated in the "atsui (hot) daikon" and the always popular water balloon games.

The raffle drawing closed out the day. A big thank you to **Fusako** and **Bruce Thompson** for their generous donation; **ABC Nursery** in Gardena for donating boxes of beautiful plants; and to **Millie** and **Steven Tani** for donating juice and soft drinks. Finally, a very special thanks to the many *kawaii* (cute) kids who helped draw the raffle tickets.

In closing, **Richard Fukuhara** thanked all who helped with the picnic and invited everyone to come again next year!

###

This page: Date stamped photos courtesy of Steven Tani.  
Other photos courtesy of Mike Vaughn.



Annual Picnic—*Cont'd from pg. 1**Arigatoo gozaimasu!*

ありがとうございます

A special recognition and big *arigatoo* to the following for all their time and hard work in making the picnic a great success:

Notices / Mailings / Tickets / Posters..... *Richard Fukuhara, Atsu Kimoto, Arlene Nakamura, Michi Otaya, & Naomi Suenaka.*  
 9:00 am Setup..... *Board Members & Advisors.*  
 Kokoro Taiko..... *Ron Dam, Victor Fukuhara, Ken Konno, Joanne Matsunaga, Greg Matsuura, Lloyd Nakano, Ken Sumida, & Brandon Suyemoto.*  
 Mistress of Ceremonies ..... *Aki (Fukuhara) Vaughn.*  
 Yamaguchi Literature Booth ..... *Henry Yasuda.*  
 Hot Dog Station..... *Arturo Yoshimoto & Naomi Suenaka.*  
 Sno-Cone Flavors Pick-up..... *Richard Fukuhara.*  
 Sno-Cone Station..... *Kiyoshi Igawa, Victor Fukuhara, & Mike Vaughn.*  
 Azuki Beans..... *Yoshiko Kishimoto & Yasuko Katayama.*  
 Drinks & Ice Pick-up ..... *Kiyoshi Igawa.*  
 Bento Order / Pick-up..... *Arlene Nakamura / Trace Fukuhara.*  
 Group Photographer..... *Richard Fukuhara.*  
 Donations Table..... *Michi Otaya & Naomi Suenaka.*  
 Registration Table..... *Atsu Kimoto & Naomi Suenaka.*  
 Face Painting ..... *Miko Sanchez & Kaz Fong.*  
 Ondo Captains ..... *Yoshiko Kishimoto & Yasuko Katayama.*  
 Line Dance Instructor ..... *Arlene Nakamura.*  
 Happi Coat Caretakers..... *Richard Fukuhara & Naomi Suenaka.*  
 Karaoke MC and Karaoke System..... *Patrick Seki.*  
 PA System ..... *Aki Vaughn.*  
 Singers ..... *To all our talented members: Thank you!*  
 Races & Games ..... *The Fukuhara Family: Cindy, Joann, Richard, Tony, Trace, Victor, Aki & Mike Vaughn; Millie Tani & Ali Perrone.*  
 Raffle (prize purchases & helpers)..... *Richard Fukuhara, Arlene Nakamura, Millie Tani, Aki Vaughn, France Wong & Sachiko Yokoyama.*

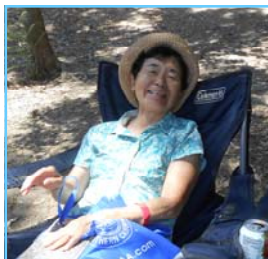
*Special Thanks To*

*ABC Nursery, Gardena (plants)*  
*Joann Fukuhara (children's toys and books for races)*  
*Victor Fukuhara (new raffle bucket & wrist bands)*  
*Naomi Suenaka (donation)*  
*Millie & Steve Tani (juice & soft drinks)*  
*Fusako & Bruce Thompson (donation)*

###



## More 2014 Picnic Photos!



Photos on this page & page 2 courtesy of Richard Fukuhara & Arlene Nakamura.



## 2014 Tanabata Festival



Nanka Yamaguchi Kenjinkai will once again create an entry for the Tanabata Festival during the 2014 Nisei Week Festival taking place in Little Tokyo from August 9–17, 2014.

This year's theme is "Wish Upon the Stars".

**We NEED people who can fold paper. It's very simple—NO ARTISTIC ABILITIES NEEDED!** If you'd like to participate, please

call Arlene Nakamura. Also, if you live in Orange County, please let us know so that we can plan some of our *kazari*-making sessions near you. The *kazari* needs to be completed by **August 6**.

### Next Kazari-Making Meeting

**When:** Monday, July 28, 2014  
**Time:** 12:00 PM  
**Where:** Little Tokyo Public Safety Association  
 Koban in Little Tokyo  
 307 E. 1st Street  
 Los Angeles, CA 90189  
 (213) 613-1911

Contact Arlene Nakamura with any questions at [arlenenakamura@gmail.com](mailto:arlenenakamura@gmail.com) or 626-281-6548.

### Tanabata Festival Schedule

Aug 8	5:00pm	Opening Ceremony & Awards Presentation
Aug 9	11am–7pm	Viewing, food & children's game booths
	12 noon–3pm	Public voting for People's Choice Award
Aug 10	11am–5pm	Viewing, food & children's games booths
Aug 11	All Day	Viewing only



2012 NYK Members making the Kazari at the Koban in Little Tokyo.

## Upcoming NYK Events

### Keiro Nursing Home Visit

One of the really feel-good events that the NYK holds is the annual Keiro Nursing Home Visit. Club members entertain the nursing home patients with Japanese songs and distribute *manju* (sweet bean cakes). If you are interested in volunteering, please contact **Henry Yasuda @ 323-269-4855**.



**Date:** Date to be determined in September  
**Time:** 1:45 PM  
**Location:** Keiro Nursing Home  
 2221 Lincoln Park Ave.  
 Los Angeles

### Nanka Yamaguchi Kenjinkai Memorial Service

A memorial service to remember our members who have passed away this year and in years' past is held every October.

**Date:** Date to be determined in October  
**Time:** To be announced  
**Location:** Higashi Honganji Buddhist Temple  
 505 E. 3rd Street, Los Angeles

If you have any questions, please contact  
**Richard Fukuhara** at [richard@fukuhara-photo.com](mailto:richard@fukuhara-photo.com)  
 or **Arlene Nakamura** at [arlenenakamura@gmail.com](mailto:arlenenakamura@gmail.com).

**Watch Your Emails for Announcements!**



**Like Us on Facebook**



Please check out the beautiful Nanka Yamaguchi Kenjinkai Facebook page created and administered by **Steven & Millie Tani**. The Tanis work very hard and do a fantastic job keeping the page updated—**you'll find great photos and video of our June 22, 2014 picnic**, as well as information about past and upcoming NYK events, photos and past newsletters. You'll also discover everything you need to know about what's happening in Yamaguchi, Japan, as well as in the Nikkei community.

[www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com)  
**Yamaguchi-Kenjinkai-Los Angeles**

## 2015 Yamaguchi World Conference

The Nanka Yamaguchi Kenjinkai will be the hosts for the 4th Yamaguchi Kenjinkai World Grand Meeting. The purpose of the grand meeting is to gather Yamaguchi kenjinkai partners to establish a mutual understanding between the Yamaguchi prefecture and the kenjinkai.

A VIP delegation from Yamaguchi, Japan and Yamaguchi Kenjinkai members from around the world are expected to attend and we are currently in the planning stages to accommodate the proposals received from Yamaguchi, Japan.

This major event will take place over 4 days and exact dates have not yet been finalized, but please keep your calendars open the first 3 weeks of November 2015.

Yamaguchi, Japan hopes to promote Yamaguchi foods, culture, and tourism, encourage Youth Visit Exchange, and visit local businesses.

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## Yamaguchi, Japan on the Web

Yamaguchi, Japan is now on line with a couple sites for you to check out:

### Yamaguchi Prefecture Kenjinkai Site

This site reports on news and statistics about world-wide kenjinkais. Did you know that there are many Yamaguchi Kenjinkai around the world, e.g., in Shanghai, Qingdao, China and Bangkok?



<http://www.pref.yamaguchi.lg.jp/cms/a12900/kenjinkai/kenjinkai.html>

### Yamaguchi Facebook Page

Facebook page that follows the activities of Yamaguchi's Coordinator for International Relations:

<https://www.facebook.com/cir.yamaguchi>

### "Yamaguchi News"

Yamaguchi, Japan has published its first newsletter dated July 2014. The "Yamaguchi News" is in Japanese and English and if you receive our NYK newsletter via email, the latest "Yamaguchi News" will be attached.

###



## Nanka Kenjinkai Kyogikai Events

The All Southern California Kenjinkai will be holding a few events to which you may want to attend:

### Nanka Kenjinkai Kyogikai 50th Anniversary Celebration

When: Sunday, September 14, 2014

Where: Quiet Cannon  
901 N. Via San Clemente  
Montebello, CA 90640

Time: 10:00 Check in  
11:00 Program Starts

Cost: \$50 per person

If you would like to attend, please contact **Richard Fukuhara** at 714-271-7646 or at [richard@fukuharafoto.com](mailto:richard@fukuharafoto.com). Reservations deadline is August 30.

### Nanka Kenjinkai Kyogikai Talent Show

All Southern California Kenjinkai present talented members from their club. Dancer, martial artist and actor, **William Christopher Ford**, will represent our club this year.

Date: Sunday, October 19, 2014

Time: 1:00 PM

Location: Aratani Japan American Theatre, Little Tokyo  
244 S. San Pedro St.  
Los Angeles

### Nanka Kenjinkai Kyogikai Bowling Tournament

4 bowlers per team (no limit to number of teams per Kenjinkai). More details to come later.

If you would like to participate, please contact **Richard Fukuhara** at 714-271-7646 or at [richard@fukuharafoto.com](mailto:richard@fukuharafoto.com).

Date: Date TBD on a Sunday in November

Time: 10:00 AM—2:00 PM

Location: To be announced



*Last year our club placed 1st!  
Let's do it again and keep the trophy with NYK!*



## NYK Member News

### Victor Fukuhara Honored by JACCC

Each year, the Japanese American Community and Cultural Center recognizes individuals who are impacting the Japanese community through arts, activism, social services, or business. One of the three recipients of the 2014 JACCC Spirit Award was our own NYK past president, Victor Fukuhara, who was profiled in our 2013 1st Qtr Newsletter.



In addition to his participation in many community organizations, Victor is currently volunteering his spare time constructing the **Dr. John Kashiwabara Library** at the Long Beach Japanese Cultural Center. ///

*Continued on next column*

### **2014 Nanka Yamaguchi Kenjinkai Picnic Attendees**



—Photo by R. Fukuhara

### *A few of our Karaoke Singers!*



Photos by Aki Vaughn

If you'd like a .jpeg of any photos in this newsletter, please let us know and we'll be happy to email them to you.

### Congratulations, Edward Sanchez!

The mom of **Edward Sanchez, Miko (Igawa)**, and his grandparents, **Kiyoshi** and **Wakiko Igawa**, are beaming with pride since Edward was named **2014 South Coast Conference Men's Swimming Athlete of the Year**. Sanchez, 19, a business major, has set school records in three separate individual events: the 200-meter freestyle, the 200-meter



Photo by Jose DeCastro  
for the Mt. San Antonio College newspaper, Mountaineer.

butterfly, and the 200-meter individual medley. He was recruited to join the University of Santa Barbara men's swim team and will attend in the fall. Sanchez learned to swim at the age of one from his mom. He is obviously following in the footsteps of his grandmother, Wakiko, who was a competitive swimmer in Japan. ///

**Let us know if you have Member News to share!**

Contact Aki Vaughn at 562-234-5702 or at [aki@vaughnlawoffice.com](mailto:aki@vaughnlawoffice.com).



## Nanka Yamaguchi Kenjinkai

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