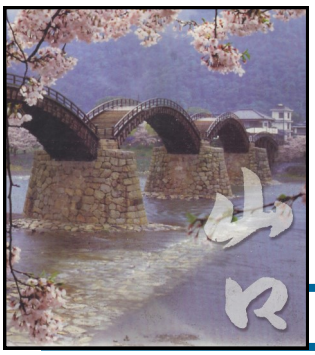


Nanka Yamaguchi Kenjinkai Newsletter

Volume VI, Issue 2 2nd Quarter 2017

Nanka Yamaguchi Kenjinkai 2017 Picnic—June 11

The sun stayed behind the clouds keeping the temperature cool at our June 11 Nanka Yamaguchi Kenjinkai (NYK) annual picnic at George Elder Park in Monterey Park.

The turnout this year was very impressive and members enjoyed a fun day with family and friends.

NYK President Arturo Yoshimoto

MC, **Aki Fukuhara-Vaughn**, introduced the talented group, **Kokoro Taiko**, who opened the festivities with three rousing selections. NYK President, **Arturo Yoshimoto**, welcomed everyone and introduced special guests: **Mr. Mike Kamimoto** (Japanese Prefectural Association of Southern California Vice President) and **Mrs. Kamimoto**; **Mr. Megumu Masuda** (Fukuoka Kenjinkai Secretary & Treasurer); **Mr. Takashi Yasuhara** (Tottori Club Vice President); and **Mr. Yoshikuni Okita** (Kumamoto Kenjinkai President).

Arlene Nakamura, NYK Scholarship Committee Chair, announced and presented scholarships to the 2017 recipients: **Derek Jerome Jackson, Emily Kiyomi Ohara**, **Lauren Keiko Tsuneishi**, and **Ryan Makoto Yasuda** *(see page 2—Scholarship Recipients).*

Picnic-goers enjoyed home-prepared foods or pre-purchased bento from **Nijiya Market**, complimentary hot dogs grilled by **Arturo Yoshimoto** and family, sno-cones with delicious *kintoki* (sweet beans prepared by **Mrs. Yoshiko Kishimoto**), soft drinks, bottled water and juices.

After lunch, *happi* coats were donned and **Mrs. Yoshiko Kishimoto**, **Aki Fukuhara-Vaughn**, and **Kristin Kimura** led the coal miner's dance to "Tanko Bushi" and DNCE's "Cake by the Ocean". **Arlene Nakamura** then taught the line dance to "Skinny Genes". Great fun!!!

A group photo was taken by **Richard Fukuhara** *(see page 4),* followed by entertainment provided by our talented singers. Karaoke MC, **Patrick Seki**, introduced **Ayako Fujita, Reijin Fujita, Yoshiko Kishimoto, Yoshi Sueoka, Hide Tanaka, Aki Vaughn,** and **Henry Yasuda.**

Going on at the same time on the other side of the park, **Larry Fukuhara** called the races and games. Infants (in the arms of their parents), toddlers, kids, teens, and adults brought out their competitive spirit participating in balloon tosses, 3-legged races, and the popular "hot daikon" game.

Other activities during the day included a candy toss for the kiddies, *mochi maki* for all, face painting by **Miko (Igawa) Sanchez** and a kazari-making session *(see photo, pg. 5)* taught by NYK Vice President **Millie Tani** *(see Tanabata Festival article on pg. 4).*

Finally, the raffle drawing took center stage with the help of many of our *kawaii* youngsters drawing the tickets. Arturo Yoshimoto closed the day by thanking everyone for attending and supporting our organization. With the final words, "see you next year!", another successful NYK picnic came to a end.

2017 NYK Scholarships Awarded to Four Recipients

When it comes to NYK Scholarship Recipients, 2017 was quite a banner year. Since all four recipients have shown excellence in academics and extra-curricular activities with commendations and awards too numerous to mention, here is a look into their character and their "gambare" spirit. (Definition of gambare: never give up; hang in there; do your best; persevere.)

L-R: NYK President Arturo Yoshimoto; Hideyaki Tanaka *representing great-niece* ***Emily Ohara;*** ***Ryan Yasuda; Derek Jackson; Lauren Tsuneishi;*** *and* ***Scholarship Committee Chair, Arlene Nakamura.***

Derek Jackson, whose mother's family is from **Shimonoseki**, will attend Oberlin College majoring in Liberal Arts with an Architecture focus. Derek began exhibiting that "gambare spirit" at the very young age of 3 when he began practicing piano. That initial commitment has today turned into 4380 hours of piano practice!! We know he also did commit himself fully to soccer because he has already secured a spot on Oberlin College's Varsity Soccer Team. The same holds true for his Japanese language class. Though not a mandatory assignment, Derek was one of 5 students who accepted his Japanese Language teacher's challenge to keep a journal in Japanese. According to his teacher, Derek not only kept a journal for that semester, but he continued writing in that journal for 2 years which greatly improved his Japanese writing skills.

Emily Ohara, whose ancestors are from **Yanai**, will attend Azusa Pacific University, majoring in Public Relations and minoring in Journalism. Being home schooled, Emily was able to take the initiative in her own education and was determined to complete all requirements needed to receive the Congressional Award Bronze Medal. Those requirements include Volunteer Public Service, Personal Development, Physical Fitness and Expedition/ Exploration. The most difficult requirement was to identify, plan and execute an Expedition. Her counselor shared that "Emily's main goal for this task was to learn to be responsible for herself as she was immersed in a new and unfamiliar culture/environment." Emily met and exceeded her goals and received her Congressional Award. Another one of her many experiences was being a short-term missions team member for rebuilding projects in New Orleans and Staten Island.

Lauren Tsuneishi, whose ancestors are from **Ono**, will attend Westmont College majoring in Kinesiology and minoring in Business Administration. Lauren's challenge came in her struggle to get a place on her high school's basketball team. Playing the same position as others on her team, she had to compete for playing time which was often discouraging. After one particularly tough practice, she wanted to quit. But instead, she decided to push back by finding a trainer who worked with her early Saturday mornings, rain or shine, helping her to hone her skills and to work on new moves. That perseverance paid off. Lauren went from "not being put in the line-up" to "never coming out of a game". Her decision not to give up has led her to receiving a scholarship to play NAIA Division 1 Ball at Westmont College.

Ryan Yasuda, whose father's ancestors are from **Kaminoseki**, will attend University of Washington, majoring in Sciences/Biology. Ryan's determination is evident in many facets of his life. In Boy Scouts, not only did he attain the highest rank of Eagle Scout, he was also selected to be the Senior Patrol Leader to over 80 Boy Scouts for one week! How many adults could handle that assignment? But Ryan rose to the challenge, participating in a week of training in all areas of Boy Scout Leadership prior to successfully leading the troop the following week. In his Honors US History class, his teacher also reflected on Ryan's leadership skills and his concern for others when he volunteered to tutor a struggling student in his class by planning study sessions, by quizzing her as he helped her to understand assignments and, finally, by choosing to pair with her on a joint research project. He, again, demonstrated his perseverance.

NYK congratulates all our scholarship recipients and wishes them enriching college experiences and a very successful future. Gambare!! *—Arlene Nakamura, Scholarship Committee Chair*

L to R: Arlene Nakamura, Arturo Yoshimoto, Naomi Suenaka *(Scholarship Committee co-chair);* ***Yasuda family****;* ***Jackson family****;* ***Hide Tanaka****; and* ***Tsuneishi family.***

2017 Picnic Photos

9th Annual L.A. Tanabata Festival

Once again, NYK will have a "kazari" (decoration) at the Tanabata Festival during Nisei Week in August.

This year's theme is "Hero" and NYK VP **Millie Tani** came up with the idea of changing Yamaguchi's mascot, **"Choruru"**, *(see left)* into a superhero. NYK member **Trace Fukuhara** created the superhero model on which paper flowers will be glued.

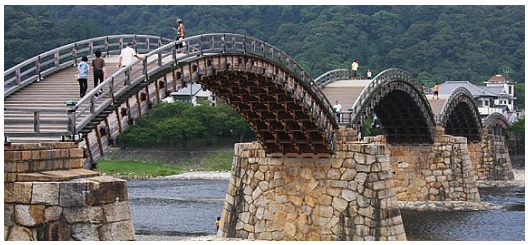
IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO HELP US MAKE THE KAZARI, PLEASE CONTACT AKI AT 562-234-5702.

Los Angeles Tanabata Festival

Location: Little Tokyo, Next to JANM & MOCA
August 19 – 20, 2017
For more information: www.tanabatalosangeles.org

NYK Planning Group Tour to Japan

In case you haven't heard, NYK is working on a tour of Japan in 2018 with plans to visit Yamaguchi. While in Yamaguchi, we hope our members will meet relatives, visit ancestral homes, and/or grave sites.



Please let us know if you are interested in taking part in this tour by contacting us at Nanka.Yamaguchi.Kenjinkai@gmail.com.

NYK Member News

WILLIAM CHRISTOPHER FORD

Check out this inspiring Interview with **William Ford** as he discusses how he got cast in The Karate Kid 3, the importance of humility and sportsmanship in karate, and the valuable lessons learned in losing at: https://you.tube/EFI40VkYh9c.

RICHARD FUKUHARA

Advisor and former NYK president**, Richard Fukuhara's "Shadows for Peace"** and the **Japanese American Cultural and Community Center (JACCC)** are preparing a mixed arts stage production, "An Afternoon of Peace: The Hiroshima and Nagasaki Experience," at the **Aratani Theatre** in Little Tokyo.

With dance, music, song, artworks and video, "An Afternoon of Peace" brings to light the devastating effects of atomic/nuclear weapons and personal experiences of "Hibakusha" (atomic bomb survivors) and the lessons learned from the bombings on August 6 and August 9, 1945.

This 1 hour, 45 minutes production will feature Shinto Priest **Iizumi Hasegawa**, the **Ken Dance Company**, pianist **Akiko Dohi**, **Nori Tani Jazz Ensemble** with **Takako Umeura, Keiko Kawashima** and **Helen Ota**, and *odori* by **Nancy Hayata**.

Friday, September 15	Student Preview Performance Time: 1:00 PM Free Admission: RSVP and Student ID Required
Saturday, September 16	Public Performance Admission: TBA

Sponsorship packages and VIP tickets are available. For more information, please contact Richard Fukuhara at 714-271-7646 or richard@shadowsforpeace.com. ///

2017 Nanka Yamaguchi Kenjinkai

—Photo by Richard Fukuhara

YAMAGUCHI KENJINKAI

2017 NYK Picnic *(Cont'd from p1)*

Picnic Special Acknowledgments

Carol & Tony Fukuhara; Cindy Fukuhara; Victor & Masako Fukuhara; Larry Fukuhara; Richard Fukuhara; Lea, Manami, & Remi Hayashi; Rev. Kiyoshi Igawa; Atsuko Kimoto; Yoshiko Kishimoto; Arlene Nakamura; Florence Ochi; Michi Otaya; Miko (Igawa) Sanchez; Patrick Seki; Naomi Suenaka; Millie & Steven Tani; Mike & Aki Vaughn; Helen & Henry Yasuda; and Arturo Yoshimoto.

Thank you to our NYK youngsters who helped with the raffle drawing.

And special thanks to the following: Carole Fujita, Grateful Crane, Kokoro Taiko, Eunice Nagai, Margaret Yasuda of Mimio Design, and to those who volunteered at the grilling and sno-cone stations, set up and clean up.

Thank you all for your help!

Picnic photos by **Steven Tani** and **Richard Fukuhara**. If you would like a jpeg copy, please contact us at Nanka.Yamaguchi.Kenjinkai@gmail.com.

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 and videos from the June 11th NYK picnic and February 21st New Year's Luncheon.

Yamaguchi-Kenjinkai-Los Angeles

LOST & FOUND at PICNIC

— Navy-blue windbreaker (jacket)
— Small Digital Camera

Please contact Aki at 562-234-5702.

Please visit our website created by NYK member Bruce Thompson at http://yamaguchi-usa.org.

Nanka Yamaguchi Kenjinkai

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