



Nanka Yamaguchi Kenjinkai Newsletter



Volume I, Issue 3

3rd Quarter 2012

4th Annual Tanabata Festival

The Nanka Yamaguchi Kenjinkai was once again represented in the Tanabata Festival during the 2012 Nisei Week festivities in Little Tokyo. Members met at the Koban in Little Tokyo over several weeks to design and create this year's *kazari*. See Nanka Yamaguchi Kenjinkai's pink and yellow *kazari* on the right and the *kazari* exhibit.

Thank you to the members below for their artistic talents and dedication!



From left: Candace Watase, Arlene Nakamura, Naomi Suenaka, France Wong & Richard Fukuhara.



From left: Arlene Nakamura, France Wong, Manami Hayashi, Lea Hayashi, Candace Watase & Hiromi Ishimaru.



From left: Candace Watase, Arlene Nakamura, Eunice Kamimura & Richard Fukuhara.

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We're Now on Facebook!

Nanka Yamaguchi Kenjinkai is now on Facebook! Thanks to members, **Steven** and **Millie Tani**, who took the initiative to create a Facebook page, you are now able to learn of upcoming events, view pictures and read the latest newsletter, etc., etc.!

"If anyone wants to share photos or other items on the Facebook page, they can do so. I am also sharing our information with the Rafu Shimpo, JACCC, WLA Buddhist Temple and Higashi Buddhist Temple, to name just a few", said Steven.

The Facebook page is in its infancy stage and as more information is uploaded, you'll see the value of this fantastic page! Check out the Facebook page and "Like" us at:



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

###



"Glad to Meet You"

Member Profiles

はじめまして

Henry Shoichiro Yasuda



Where and when were you born?

I was born on July 29, 1928 in Pasadena, California, the eldest son of six siblings. A year later, we moved to Mesa, Arizona where my father farmed and then opened a small market, Yasuda Grocery. My parents sent me to Japan at the age of ten to study and learn the

Japanese culture.

Where were you during World War II? I was attending Tokugawa High School during the early years of the war. Later, students were sent to work toward the war effort and I was sent to the Tokuyama Navy Refueling Depot. On April 3, 1945, I was selected to enroll at the Etajima Navy Academy (the equivalent to America's Annapolis). After the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki and the war's end, we cadets were ordered to return home before the Occupation Forces arrived.

What kind of work did you do after WWII? I returned to America in 1948 and enrolled at Glendale High School in Arizona to take a crash course in English and then later attended Phoenix Jr. College. In the fall of 1952, I transferred to UC Berkeley to study International Business and Foreign Government. I became a "schoolboy" for a professor, doing chores for room and board and earned extra money during the summers in Los Angeles doing landscaping and gardening. I graduated from UC Berkeley with a Bachelor Science degree in Business Administration in June, 1953. I received a draft notice and immediately reported to active duty at Fort Ord on September 4, 1953, and served in the U.S. Army (MIS) during the Korean War (2 years) and the U.S. Federal Government in Japan (8 years) until December, 1964.

In 1965, my brothers and I started a grocery business that grew into the Tom-sons Grocery stores in Baldwin Park and Pico Rivera. In 1988, I retired at the age of 60 and the family sold the business and leased it for the next 15 years.



1954, Seoul, Korea. Henry served in the 502nd Military Intelligence Battalion to review, process & translate intelligence data for the U.S. Army.

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Helen Chizuko (Inouye) Yasuda



Where and when were you born?

I was born in Fresno, California. I come from a family of four brothers and a sister. My father was a truck



Helen (right) with her brothers and sister—her little brother had not yet been born.

farmer who worked on a small acreage. Since our crops were not seasonal, we worked year round.

Where were you during World War II? From Fresno Assembly Center, we were transferred to Jerome Relocation Center in Arkansas. As camp life was not conducive to raising a family, we moved to Ogden, Utah, where my parents worked as farm laborers. When my grandfather became very ill, we returned to camp. We were sent to Rohwer Relocation Center in Arkansas when Jerome Relocation Center was closed. We were one of the first to return to California in the spring of 1945.

What did you do before you were married? While I was attending UC Berkeley, my two brothers were drafted into the U.S. Army and my sister was getting married. Since my mother had passed away in 1950, this meant my father was left to farm by himself. Therefore, I left UC Berkeley to farm with my father.

Whom did you marry and when?

I met Henry Yasuda when we were both attending UC Berkeley. We married during his furlough before he went to Korea on May 15, 1954 at the former Nishi Hongwanji Buddhist Temple in Little Tokyo.



What did you do during the Korean War? I joined Henry in Tokyo in Dec 1954. In 1955, he changed from military to a civilian status. While working in clerical positions at military bases, I raised my family. We returned to California in Dec 1964. When the children got older, I worked full-time at Tom-sons Market until we sold the business in 1988.

(Continued on page 3)

Henry Yasuda—*Cont'd from pg. 2*



1973-1988—Henry (right) with his brothers & father, Seiichi “Tom”, at their grocery store in Baldwin Park. The other market was in Pico Rivera.

Whom did you marry and when? I met Helen Chizuko Inouye while we were both attending UC Berkeley. We married on May 15, 1954.

Do you have children / grandchildren? Helen and I have five children and ten grandchildren. Four of our children were born while I was stationed at the Tachikawa Airbase (see Helen's story, next column).

When did you join Nanka Yamaguchi Kenjinkai? I joined in 1970 and served as president in 1997-1999.

Do you have a special or proud memory? My proudest moment came in 1955 when I was determined to resettle my entire family to the U.S. who were all living in Japan after the war. However, because of the annual quota of 158 immigrants from Japan, I hit a roadblock getting my parents and grandmother back here because they were not U.S. citizens. I was told that it would take an act of Congress to get this changed. I worked hard, contacting legislators; and in 1961, Private Bill H.R. 1572, co-sponsored by two California lawmakers, Congressman Gordon McDonough and Senator Thomas Kachel, was passed by the full U.S. Congress and signed by President John F. Kennedy. The bill granted my parents and grandmother permanent resident status allowing them to return to America.

What do you enjoy doing in your spare time? I enjoy Japanese calligraphy, singing *shigin*, karaoke, and, although I am self-taught, I like to paint. I landscaped the garden at the Higashi Honganji Buddhist Temple and I truly enjoy taking care of the garden and my own Japanese garden.



Painting by Henry.

Note: Henry's education, life in the military and government, and his achievements in the private sector in Japan and in America are too numerous to include in this newsletter. Readers can learn more in his fascinating autobiography, Yamato Damashi – The Tenacious Spirit of a Kibei.

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Helen Yasuda—*Cont'd from pg. 2*

Do you have children / grandchildren? We have five children and 10 grandchildren. **Patrice**, PhD, Assistant Clinical Professor of Clinical Pediatrics and Director of Training at Children's Hospital in Los Angeles, has her own practice; **Janice**, a National Director of Business Development for McKessons; **Thomas**, MD on the Medical School Faculty at the University of Connecticut; **Margaret**, owner and creative director of her own company, Mimio; and **Richard**, Director of General Accounting for Nellson Nutraceutical.

When did you join Nanka Yamaguchi Kenjinkai? Henry joined in 1970 and I served as Fujinkai president from 2005–2011.

Where have you traveled? Japan, South America (Brazil, Peru), and China (where we rode on camels). My daughter and I went to London and Paris; and Henry and I love to visit our daughter in Colorado and our son in Hartford, CT, especially in the fall.

What do you enjoy doing in your spare time? I love to mentor my grandchildren and teach them Japanese cooking and culture. I volunteer on the External Relations Committee and also as a docent at Japanese American National Museum.



Helen created this framed Japanese doll (kimekomi).

Do you have a special or proud memory? I have been very fortunate my entire life. While working full time and 35 years after leaving UC Berkeley, I was able to resume my college education and received my B.S. Degree from Cal State L.A. Henry and I were the Nikkei Parents of the Year in 1996. I was honored as the recipient of the Miki Tanimura Award, the highest volunteer award at the 25th Anniversary of the Japanese American National Museum. But the greatest moments in my life are the times I spend with my family—my husband, children and grandchildren.



**With our 10 grandchildren.
Family means everything to me!**

###

Upcoming Events



Keiro Nursing Home Visit

Club members entertain the nursing home patients with Japanese songs and distribute manju. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact **Henry Yasuda** @ 323-269-4855.

Date: Sunday, September 16, 2012
Time: 1:45 PM
Location: 2221 Lincoln Park Ave., Los Angeles

Dinner with Mayor of Iwakuni

We will have a reception dinner for Iwakuni Mayor **Yoshihiko Fukuda** who will talk of the new Iwakuni Kintai-kyo Airport. If you would like to attend, please RSVP to either **Richard Fukuhara** at 714-271-7646 or at richard@fukuharafoto.com or **Henry & Helen Yasuda** at 323-269-4855.

Date: Saturday, October 6, 2012
Time: 6:00 PM
Location: Miyako Hotel, Little Tokyo
Cost Per Person: \$30.00

Nanka Yamaguchi Kenjinkai Memorial Service

Memorial service to remember members who have passed away this year and in years' past.

Date: Sunday, October 14, 2012
Time: 11:30 AM
Location: Higashi Honganji Buddhist Temple
505 E. 3rd Street, Los Angeles

Kenjinkai Kyogikai Talent Show

All Southern California Kenjinkai meet and enjoy the talent from each Kenjinkai. **William Ford**, who will dance "Karashishi Botan", is the Nanka Yamaguchi Kenjinkai representative this year.

Date: Sunday, October 21, 2012
Time: 12:30 PM
Location: Quiet Cannon
901 Via San Clemente, Montebello

Nanka Kenjinkai Kyogikai 6th Annual Bowling Tournament—Deadline to enter: October 31, 2012

\$25 per bowler (includes bowling, lunch & prizes); 4 bowlers per team (no limit to number of teams per Kenjinkai). If you would like to participate, please contact **Richard Fukuhara** at 714-271-7646 or at richard@fukuharafoto.com.

Date: Sunday, November 4, 2012
Time: 10:00 AM—2:00 PM
Location: AMF Bowl-O-Drome
21915 S. Western Ave., Torrance

If you have any questions, please contact **Richard Fukuhara** at richard@fukuharafoto.com or **Arlene Nakamura** at arlenenakamura@gmail.com.

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Did You Know?

Former bureaucrat **Shigetaro Yamamoto** won the Yamaguchi gubernatorial election, beating a well-known renewable energy proponent and two other rivals in a contest that focused on the planned construction of a nuclear power plant in the southwestern Japan prefecture.



Yamamoto, a 63-year-old former senior official of the Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism Ministry, garnered 252,461 votes. After winning the election, Yamamoto told reporters that he would deal with the planned construction of a nuclear plant in Kaminoseki by Chugoku Electric Power Co. "by putting priority on the safety and security of prefectural residents."

—Kyodo News

New Iwakuni Airport



Iwakuni City is opening its new airport, Iwakuni Kintai-kyo Airport, on December 13, 2012. All Nippon Airways will start flying into Haneda Airport. To the left is the winning design of the new airport logo that was chosen from among 859 submissions from across Japan. Graphic designer, **Yoshito Nakata** of Hofu, Yamaguchi Prefecture, created the logo based on the five arches of the Kintai-kyo Bridge.

The Mayor of Iwakuni, **Yoshihiko Fukuda**, and his secretary, **Takeshi Murakami**, will be in Los Angeles to meet members of the Nanka Yamaguchi Kenjinkai. See the "Upcoming Events" column for details.

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Nanka Yamaguchi Kenjinkai

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