



Nanka Yamaguchi Kenjinkai

Newsletter



Volume V, Issue 4

Happy Holidays



4th Quarter 2016

2017 NYK General Meeting & New Year's Luncheon Sunday, February 19, 2017

Please join us at a luncheon celebration to welcome in 2017, the year of the Rooster! There will be a general meeting before lunch when we will vote for and install the 2017 officers. We will also enjoy a video review of 2016, Karaoke, Bingo, and prizes for all!



**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2017
11:00 AM**

Quiet Cannon (Sunset Room)
901 Via San Clemente
Montebello, CA

Plenty of FREE Parking

\$25.00 Cost Per Adult
\$10 Per Child 12 & Under
(to be paid at the luncheon)

Members 80 years & older will be our honored guests

★ Please Select Your Menu Choice ★

ADULTS
and Children 11+

☐ Chicken
☐ Salmon
☐ Vegetarian

CHILDREN
(Ages 3 thru 10)

☐ Chicken Strips
☐ Mac & Cheese

Please RSVP your attendance, your meal choice, and if you are 80 years of age or older.

RSVP DEADLINE: TUESDAY, February 14, 2017

Contact:

Yoshiko Kishimoto (626) 287-8600
Arlene Nakamura (626) 221-4271

or email us at Nanka.Yamaguchi.Kenjinkai@gmail.com

NYK Needs YOU!

Nanka Yamaguchi Kenjinkai (NYK) is seeking members to serve on the Board. Our current Board consists of 10 active members who attend 3-4 board meetings a year and volunteer behind the scenes to ensure that our events run smoothly and leave our members with an enjoyable experience.

Meetings are currently held on a week night in Monterey Park, however, we do have board members who live in Huntington Beach, Orange, and Long Beach, so if you are interested in joining the Board and would like to hitch a ride, we may be able to assist you.

We need your help at our events and your ideas on how best to:

- Increase NYK's membership
- Improve our 2 programs
- Increase NYK's visibility in the community
- Increase participation at our events

We are also exploring the idea of a tour to Japan called "Finding Your Yamaguchi Roots".

NYK's two annual events are:

1. New Year's Luncheon (Shinnenkai)
The luncheon is celebrated at the beginning of the year. At this luncheon we extend our best wishes for good health and honor our 80+ elders. We also review the highlights of the previous year, enjoy music, play Bingo, and make sure everyone has a good time.
2. Summer Picnic
The annual summer picnic is our only fundraiser. It is a time to renew old friendships and enjoy a day of fun, good food, Karaoke, races and games for toddlers to seniors, and the chance to win prizes during our benefit drawing.

(Continued on page 2)

A Very Brief History of NYK

In the 1890's immigrants from Japan began arriving in the U.S. to seek a better life for themselves and their families. Those who shared the same dialect and came from the same hometown or village usually stayed close to each other.

In 1905 a group of Yamaguchi-Ken men, led by its first president, Kakichi Waki, met in Little Tokyo and formed the Yamaguchi Kenjinkai with the purpose of helping to support each other in times of illness and misfortune. New arrivals from Yamaguchi were provided assistance in settling in their new environment.

Due to World War II and the incarceration of Japanese Americans, the Kenjinkai activities were halted and did not resume until 1946 under the leadership of Waichi Yoshimura.

In 2005 the Nanka Yamaguchi Kenjinkai celebrated its 100th Anniversary. There are a few commemorative program books from the 100th Anniversary and if you are interested in obtaining a free copy, please let us know.

NANKA YAMAGUCHI KENJINKAI Mission Statement

*To provide friendship and harmony
among the members.*

*To maintain a close relationship with
Yamaguchi Prefecture and other related
organizations.*

*To promote mutual assistance and
educational support of members, thereby
contributing to the public welfare.*

What is Yamaguchi Kenjinkai?

Ken or prefecture (province) represents a state such as California. Japan has 47 kens (or states). **Jin** means people and **kai** is an organization. Therefore, **Kenjinkai** means an **organization** whose members are from the same **Ken** (State) in Japan. It is a friendship and support group for members to help each other in times of need.

—Submitted by Henry & Helen Yasuda

NYK Needs YOU!—Cont'd from p1

During the picnic, scholarships are awarded to high school students who meet the criteria and are descendants of Yamaguchi-Ken.



NYK also voluntarily participates in the 3 annual events spearheaded by JPASC (Japanese Prefectural Association of Southern California), the all ken-jinkai organization.

1. Tanabata Festival during Nisei Week
2. Talent Show in October
3. Bowling Tournament in November

Questions You May Have

How do I become a Board member?

Just come to our meetings and participate. Officers are selected by Board members and approved by the membership body at our annual New Years luncheon.

Do I need to be from Yamaguchi-Ken, Japan to become a member or board member?

No. If you are from Yamaguchi-Ken or a descendant of a Yamaguchi-Ken native or if you are just interested in Yamaguchi, you are welcome!

What are the dues?

Nanka Yamaguchi Kenjinkai is a dues-free and strictly volunteer-based organization.

Please call Aki Fukuhara-Vaughn at 562-234-5702 if you are interested in joining our Board or if you have any ideas or comments. You may also respond via email at NankaYamaguchiKenjinkai@gmail.com.

We look forward to hearing from you!

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Check out the NYK Website!

<http://yamaguchi-usa.org>

Please contact NYK Member and Webmaster,
Bruce Thompson, with any questions at:
bthompson@yamaguchi-usa.org



NYK Member Profile

Arturo Yoshimoto

Meet Arturo Yoshimoto, our current NYK President.



Where were you born? I was born in Lima, Peru of Nisei parents, Victor Yoshimoto and Elena Endo. My paternal grandfather came to Peru from Iwakuni, Yamaguchi and my mother's family came to Peru from Shizuoka.

Where were you raised and where were you educated?

I was born and raised in Lima, Peru. I attended Santa Rita de Casia Catholic School in Lima. At 22, I came to the United States to finish my Mechanical Engineering degree at the California State University Northridge. I now enjoy a career as a Real Estate broker.



Where was your family during World War II? My family was in Peru working on a farm during WWII. We were not taken as POWs and were very fortunate to not be affected by the war.

What kind of work did you or your family do after the War? My father, a mechanical engineer, started a steel business and gradually got involved in the import and re-manufacturing of steel products. Now in his 80's, he still drives and goes to work.

My late mother's family were farm and flower growers who later became florists.

Are you married? If so, to whom and do you have children? I have been married to Lea Hayashi for 20 years and we have three daughters and one son. My first two daughters are twins, Manami and Kysa, who are both very active students academically and in sports. They are currently attending Flintridge Sacred Heart Academy High School. My third daughter, Remi, goes to Clairbourn Middle School and my son, Shogo, attends the 2nd Grade at Clairbourn School. They are all very happy kids who play a lot of sports and very eager to learn new things.

How did you get involved with Nanka Yamaguchi Kenjinkai? While in a Peru my dad was involved as President of Peru Yamaguchi Kenjinkai. When I came to America and met my wife, she told me about Nanka Yamaguchi Kenjinkai through Patrick Seki, whose wife Luz

is also from Peru. Since then, I have been involved and very thankful to this organization for all the support given to my family.

Do you have a special or proud memory (or memories)?

A proud memory I have is when the 2015 Yamaguchi World Grand Meeting held in Los Angeles was a total success because of the help of all members of the Nanka Yamaguchi Kenjinkai.

Where have you traveled? At a young age, I traveled through Spain Italy, France, Netherlands, Japan, Hong Kong, and Taiwan. Later in life, to Brazil, Argentina, Paraguay, Ecuador, Chile, Uruguay, Costa Rica, Mexico, Canada, Dominican Republic, London, Bahamas, and throughout the United States.

What do you enjoy doing in your spare time? My current personal hobbies are to take care of our tropical fish, Akita, and cat. I enjoy watching my kids' basketball games and planting plumerias—a new hobby for me.

Anything else you want to add? I am very delighted to serve as President of this unique and special organization. I want to thank all the members, board members, advisors, and previous presidents for all their support over the years, especially during the 2015 Yamaguchi World Grand Meeting in Los Angeles. Let's continue to remember and preserve our Yamaguchi roots!

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The publisher of this newsletter would like to add the following: Arturo did not mention that he is the owner of Ink A Graphics and Signs in Los Angeles. He generously printed banners, signs, t-shirts, and bags for the 2015 Yamaguchi World Grand Meeting. We are very fortunate and grateful to have Arturo on the NYK Board and as our President.



NYK Member News

Levi Johnson, the adorable great-grandson of NYK member and past NYK president (2003) Hideaki Tanaka, was crowned “2016 Nisei Week Romper Stomper Prince”. Levi is the son of Ashley and Aaron Johnson and the grandson of Wendi and Clay Okabayashi. NYK extends its congratulations to little Levi and his family!



*Levi with his crown.
Photo by
Wendi Okabayashi.*



*Levi with his “Gigi”,
Hide Tanaka.
Photo by Richard
Fukuhara.*

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.

2017 Scholarships

Each year, the NYK awards scholarships to graduating high school seniors who are descendants of Yamaguchi-ken.

Application forms will be available at the 2017 New Year's Luncheon on February 19, 2017. Fill-in forms will be available soon for download on our Website and Facebook page. Contact us if you have any questions 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 from the June 12, 2016 NYK Picnic.

Questions? Suggestions? Comments?

Email us at

Nanka.Yamaguchi.Kenjinkai@gmail.com

Please add this to your email accounts 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!

2016 Bowling Tournament Results

The Japanese Prefectural Association of Southern California (JPASC) Bowling Tournament was held this year at the Norwalk Bowling Lanes on November 6.

Many nanka kenjinkai (Southern California clubs) attended the event—some brought their own bowling balls and others were there just to have fun.



Nanka Yamaguchi Kenjinkai was represented by (pictured on the left from l to r): Kevin Eto, Bing Lau, Pei Eto and Sam Nakata. Thank you, team, for playing on our behalf!

Below are the tournament results:

Placement	Kenjinkai	3-Game Total
1st Place	Wakayama	1919
2nd Place	Okinawa	1841
3rd Place	Kansai (Team A)	1803

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Nanka Yamaguchi Kenjinkai

2016 Board Directors

Arturo Yoshimoto President
arturo@hayashirealty.com

Millie Tani Vice President
mtani.laccd.it@gmail.com

Aki Fukuhara-Vaughn Secretary
aki@vaughnlawoffice.com

Naomi Suenaka Treasurer
nsuenaka@gmail.com

Board Members and Advisors

Richard Fukuhara, Victor Fukuhara, Kiyoshi Igawa, Atsuko Kimoto, Arlene Nakamura, Michiko Otaya, Patrick Seki, Steven Tani, Mike Vaughn, Helen & Henry Yasuda.

Facebook Administrator

Steven Tani steve.racer11@gmail.com

Webmaster

Bruce Thompson bthompson@yamaguchi-usa.org

Newsletter Editor

Arlene Nakamura arlenenakamura@gmail.com

Newsletter Creator & Publisher

Aki Fukuhara-Vaughn aki@vaughnlawoffice.com