

# Nanka Yamaguchi Kenjinkai Newsletter



Volume III, Issue 4

Oct & Nov 2014

## NYK Takes 1st at 2014 Tanabata Festival!

The Nanka Yamaguchi Kenjinkai (NYK) kazari entry in the 2014 Tanabata Festival, held during Nisei Week, garnered 1st place this year in the Kenjinkai Kyogikai category. "Wish Upon the Stars" was this year's theme.

The NYK kazari shows two lovers in silhouette back-dropped by a crescent moon. NYK member, **Millie Tani**, came up with our kazari concept based on a 2,000 year-old Chinese folklore about two stars, Vega (a weaver) and Altair (a cow herder), who fell in love and married. Vega's father, the Sky King, was unhappy with the lovers for not carrying out their respective duties of weaving fabrics and tending to the herd, so he separated the lovers to opposite sides of the river in the Milky Way.



*NYK's Winning Kazari.*

However, the Sky King allowed the lovers to meet once a year on 7/7. On 7/7, a flock of magpies link their wings together to form a bridge. The NYK kazari shows the two lovers on a bridge that is reminiscent of the Kintaiyo bridge in Yamaguchi.



*1st Place Award Plaque.*

Congratulations and mucho thanks to the members who built the kazari and spent many, many hours making the crepe paper flowers and streamers: **Richard Fukuhara, Victor Fukuhara, Arlene Nakamura, Ali Perrone, Naomi Suenaka, Aki Vaughn, and France Yanai Wong.** A very special thank you to the Koban in Little Tokyo for the use of their facilities.

*See page 4 for a list of awardees and visit the Tanabata website for more information.*

<http://www.tanabatalosangeles.org/#!awards>

*(Continued on page 4)*

## Keiro Nursing Home Visit

In Japan, the third Monday of every September is a national holiday known as "Respect for the Aged Day", or "Keiro No Hi". In keeping with this tradition that began in 1966, Nanka Yamaguchi Kenjinkai makes an annual visit to one of the neighboring nursing homes to pay tribute to the elderly.



On September 13 Nanka Yamaguchi Kenjinkai members met at the Keiro Nursing Home and entertained with familiar Japanese songs to which the residents sang along. **Aki Fukuhara-Vaughn** and **Patrick Seki** co-emceed and, along with **Kiyoshi Igawa**, sang solos in Japanese and English.

Later, members passed out pink manju to all the residents. **Helen Yasuda** and NYK president, **Richard Fukuhara**, presented two CD/radio players to the nursing home as donations from the NYK.

As always, everyone had a wonderful time! A very special thanks to our NYK volunteers: **Ayako and Reijin Fujita, Richard Fukuhara, Wakiko and Kiyoshi Igawa, Yasuko Katayama, Yoshiko Kishimoto, Michi Otaya, Ali Perrone, Patrick Seki, Mike and Aki Vaughn, and Helen and Henry Yasuda.**



# Upcoming Events!

## Memorial Service

Sunday, Oct. 12, 2014



Nanka Yamaguchi Kenjinkai will hold a memorial service to remember and honor members who have passed away during the current year and in years' past.

Date: Sunday, October 12, 2014  
 Time: 1:00 PM  
 Location: Higashi Honganji Buddhist Temple  
 505 E. 3rd Street  
 Los Angeles

Following the service, snacks will be served and a short general board meeting will be held downstairs. If you'd like to help, please come at 12:00.

## Nanka Kenjinkai Kyogikai Talent Show

Sunday, October 19, 2014

Every October all Southern California Kenjinkai meet to present talent from each Kenjinkai. The Nanka Yamaguchi Kenjinkai will be represented this year by the multi-talented dancer/actor and Martial Arts **Sensei William Christopher Ford**. He will be performing the dance called, "Hashi", about the invisible connections or bridges that exist between parents and their children and between husband and wife. The dance was choreographed by Sensei Nami Yoshino. *See page 4, "Member News", for more about William.*



Date: Sunday, October 19, 2014  
 Time: 1:00 PM  
 Location: Aratani Japan America Theatre  
 244 S. San Pedro St.  
 Los Angeles  
 Tickets: \$20.00

Contact Richard Fukuhara at 714-271-7646  
 or at richard@fukuharafoto.com for information.

## Nanka Kenjinkai Kyogikai 8th Annual Bowling Tournament

Sunday, November 9, 2014



The all Southern California Kenjinkai, known as the Nanka Kenjinkai Kyogikai, will be holding its annual bowling tournament on Sunday, November 9. About 22 kenjinkai participate in this very fun event so we hope you can join us.

Four bowlers per team (no limit to number of teams per Kenjinkai). All levels of bowlers are welcome—from gutter-ball to expert bowlers!

Our club took home the 1st Place trophy last year—let's do it again!

Date: Sunday, November 9, 2014  
 Check-in: 9:30 AM  
 Start Time: 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM  
 Cost: \$25 per bowler

Location: AMF Bowl-O-Drome  
 21915 S. Western Ave.  
 Torrance, CA 90501  
 (310) 328-3700

**DEADLINE TO REGISTER**  
**\*\*\* OCTOBER 16, 2014 \*\*\***

Please contact Arlene Nakamura at (626) 221-4271  
 or email at arlenenakamura@gmail.com



**2015 Yamaguchi-Ken World Conference**  
**&**  
**Nanka Yamaguchi Kenjinkai**  
**110th Anniversary Luncheon**

November 19, 20, 21, 2015  
*(Tentative dates)*

*See page 3 for more information.*

## 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, including the **Governor of Yamaguchi Prefecture, Tsugumasa Muraoka**, and Yamaguchi Kenjinkai members from around the world are expected to attend. We are currently in the planning stages to accommodate the proposals received from Yamaguchi, Japan.

Tentative plans include meeting with Los Angeles city officials, visiting local businesses, and celebrating the Nanka Yamaguchi Kenjinkai's 110th Anniversary at a luncheon to be held tentatively on Sunday, November 21, 2015.

**November 19, 20, 21, 2015** (*Tentative Dates*)

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

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## Yamaguchi-Ken Newsletter

Yamaguchi, Japan has published its 2nd newsletter dated September 2014. The 2-page "Yamaguchi News" is in Japanese and English and if you receive our NYK newsletter via email, the latest "Yamaguchi News" will be attached.

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## 2014 Tanabata Festival—(cont'd from pg. 1)

### 6TH ANNUAL NISEI WEEK TANABATA FESTIVAL 2014 KAZARI WINNERS

Category	Winner
Founder's Award	L.A. Gedatsu Church
People's Choice	L.A. Gedatsu Church
Government	Councilmember Mitch O'Farrell
<b>Kenjinkai Kyogikai</b>	<b>Nanka Yamaguchi Kenjinkai</b>
Non-Profit	Little Tokyo Nutritional Services
Business	ANA (All Nippon Airways)
Anime/Manga	L.A. Gedatsu Church
Family/Individual	Tomoko Kito

See more Tanabata Festival Photos on Our Facebook Page.

## Nanka Kenjinkai Kyogikai Celebrates 50th

The Nanka Kenjinkai Kyogikai celebrated its 50th Anniversary at a banquet luncheon on September 14, 2014. The Japanese Prefectural Association of Southern California (JPASC) represents all Southern California kenjinkais and was founded when Japan held the 1964 Olympics. Almost 500 participants attended — the largest gathering at their function in recent years — at the Quiet Cannon banquet hall in Montebello.

Nanka Yamaguchi Kenjinkai was well represented by the following members: **Richard Fukuhara, Kiyoshi Igawa, Arlene Nakamura, Patrick Seki, Bruce and Fusako Thompson, France Yanai Wong, and Helen and Henry Yasuda.**



*Seated: Arlene Nakamura, Fusako & Bruce Thompson, Henry & Helen Yasuda;  
Standing: Patrick Seki, France Yanai Wong, Rev. Kiyoshi Igawa, and Richard Fukuhara.*

## 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 up-to-date. You'll find video and great photos 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**



# NYK Member News

## PSW JACL Salutes France Yanai Wong

On September 20, 2014, the JACL Pacific South-west District held its 18th Annual Awards Benefit Luncheon at the Skirball Center in Los Angeles to salute community leaders. Nanka Yamaguchi Kenjinkai member and current Board Secretary, **France Yanai Wong**, was honored as the Hollywood JACL Chapter Leader for her service to the community.



France's involvement in community affairs began when she won the title of **Miss Nisei Week Queen in 1963** representing **Gardena Valley**. She was influenced by the political activism of actor **George Takei** and went on to chair a dinner for **George McGovern** when he ran for President. **Norman Mineta** served as keynote speaker at that event and France is proud that her group was instrumental in introducing Mr. Mineta to the Southern California JA community. France also chaired dinners for **Robert Matsui** when he ran for Congress and for **Jimmy Carter** when he ran for president. President Carter later nominated France to be on the Peace Corps Commission.

## William Ford Raises \$15,000 for St. Jude's

**Sensei William Christopher Ford**, owner and chief instructor of Kaizen Dojo martial arts studio in Torrance and an ambassador for the Masters Hall of Fame, celebrated his 40 years in martial arts on July 20 by sparring with 40 opponents.

To make the celebration of this milestone of his career more meaningful, he used the event as an opportunity to raise more than \$15,000 for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

"It was a fantastic way to commemorate 40 years of study because we came together as a community to raise funds for a great cause," Ford said at the event.

A long-time black belt in Okinawan Shorin Ryu karate, Ford began his instruction at the urging of his mother and NYK member, **Mrs. Umeno Ford**. Following in his mentors' footsteps in both the martial arts and film, Ford appeared in "The Karate Kid Part III" with **Ralph Macchio** and **Pat Morita**, and several other film, television, and stage productions.

Ford was also supported by many martial arts icons, including actor **Gerald Okamura**, who has appeared in such films as "Big Trouble in Little China" and currently plays a recurring role as Master Po on Disney XD's show "Kickin' It."

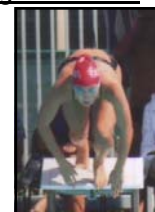
"This event is truly the highlight of my martial arts career," said a grateful Ford. "Nothing so far comes close. It was a fantastic way to commemorate 40 years of study because we came together as a community to raise funds for a great cause. I am so very grateful to all who supported this event in some way."

For more information about Kaizen Dojo, visit the website at <http://kaizendojo.com>.

—excerpts taken from *Rafu Shimpo*, Aug 27, 2014

## Catherine Sanchez Named to U.S. Swimming Scholastic All-American Team

**Catherine Sanchez**, daughter of **Miko** and **Rick Sanchez**, was recently named to the United States Swimming Scholastic All-American Team. Catherine is the granddaughter of **Kiyoshi** and **Wakiko Igawa**.



**Catherine with little sister, Madison.**

In order to qualify, one has to be a high school-aged swimmer, meet swimming time standards near the Junior National level, and have an elite High School GPA. Catherine has met all the qualifications, including an impressive 4.0 GPA!

This is obviously a huge honor and only the very elite swimmers/students achieve this level. Congratulations, Catherine, and keep up the good work!

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If you know a member of the Nanka Yamaguchi Kenjinkai who has recently graduated from high school / college or who has been recently honored or has news to share, please let us know and we'll publish it in this newsletter. Contact Arlene Nakamura at [arlenenakamura@gmail.com](mailto:arlenenakamura@gmail.com) or Aki Vaughn at [aki@vaughnlawoffice.com](mailto:aki@vaughnlawoffice.com) or call 562-234-5702.



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