NYK Members Welcome in 2017

After a few days of what the weatherman called “the southland’s worst rainstorm”, the sun came out for the Nanka Yamaguchi Kenjinkai Shinnen-enkai luncheon at the Quiet Cannon on February 19. In attendance were almost 80 members, including quite of few from Generations X & Z.

Emcee Aki Fukuhara-Vaughn welcomed everyone and introduced club president, Arturo Yoshimoto, who delivered “Happy New Year” greetings to all and announced the 2017 NYK Board officers:

**2017 NYK Board**

President, Arturo Yoshimoto  
Secretary, Aki Vaughn  
Vice President, Millie Tani  
Treasurer, Naomi Suenaka

Before lunch was served, Henry Yasuda led everyone in a kam-pai toast and Rev. Kiyoshi Igawa delivered the invocation.

After a delicious lunch, Karaoke Master of Ceremony Patrick Seki introduced each of our talented singers: Yoshiko Kishimoto, Ayako and Reijin Fujita, Rev. Kiyoshi Igawa, Aki Vaughn, and Henry Yasuda.

Long-time NYK member, Mrs. Mitsuko Yamamoto, who turned 100 years old on March 22, was recognized with a proclamation from the City of Alhambra and a commendation from NYK. Mrs. Yamamoto, who many of us call “Mama-san”, is the mother of Arlene Nakamura and Elaine Koyama.

Next on the agenda was the highlight of our annual new year’s luncheon—the honoring of members 80 and 80+ years of age. Seventeen members were introduced and each was presented a gift bag adorned with a “rooster” (Continued on page 4)

NYK Picnic - June 11

Once again, the NYK picnic will be held in Monterey Park at George Elder Park. Please mark your calendars!

**When:** Sunday, June 11, 2017 (1 wk before Father’s Day)

**Where:** George Elder Park  
1950 Wilcox (corner of Elmgate)  
Monterey Park

**Time:** 11:30 AM Start

The park is easy to find, has plenty of parking, jungle gyms for the kiddies and tennis courts (the tennis courts are on a first-come, first-serve basis).

We’ll have races for the kids and adults, Karaoke, prizes and much, much more! As always, bento boxes will be on sale.

Watch your mailbox for the drawing tickets for prizes and additional information which will be arriving soon. We’ll see you there!

2017 NYK Scholarship Applications

Scholarship applications are NOW AVAILABLE to graduating high school seniors who are descendants of Yamaguchi-Ken. The forms are computer fillable which may be a preferable way to complete the documents. They can also be filled out by hand.

The scholarship application forms can be downloaded from our Facebook page at Yamaguchi-Kenjinkai-Los Angeles or on our website at http://yamaguchi-usa.org.

For any questions, please contact:  
Scholarship Chairperson: Arlene Nakamura  
Email: arlenenakamura@gmail.com  
Phone: 626.281.6548

See scholarship documents for deadline.

The recipient(s) will be awarded their scholarships at our annual picnic on Sunday, June 11, 2017.
2017 Shinnen-Enkai Photos

PHOTOS BY BRUCE THOMPSON AND STEVEN TANI

2017 Senior Honorees


PHOTO BY RICHARD FUKUHARA.
2018 “Finding Your Roots” Tour of Japan

The Nanka Yamaguchi Kenjinkai Board members are in the beginning stages of planning a “Finding Your Roots” tour of Japan in 2018. We hope you and your family members will be able to join us! Please read below.

Are you interested in finding your roots in Yamaguchi, Japan?

We are in the beginning stages of planning a trip to Japan. We will begin in Tokyo and travel to Kyoto, Osaka, Hiroshima and end with an exploration of Yamaguchi Prefecture.

After touring Yamaguchi and seeing some major sites before returning to Tokyo, you will have time to visit your “hometown” on your own. Perhaps you will: meet your relatives; visit the homes where your ancestors lived and worked; pay respects at the graves of your ancestors; and enjoy experiencing local dishes.

Please sign up if you are interested in participating in this fun and educational trip.

A meeting for all interested parties will be arranged at which time details of the trip will be planned, including date, cost, hotels, etc.

Have an adventure with your family on the Bullet Train or the town local!

EAT AND LEARN ABOUT SOME OF THE DELICIOUS FOODS FROM YAMAGUCHI

IWAKUNI SUSHI  NABEMONO  BARI SOBA  FUGU  MIKAN
2017 Shinnen-enkai (Cont’d from p1)

memo holder. Inside each bag was a fan decorated with the “choruru” (Yamaguchi-ken’s mascot) and other goodies. Kudos to Steven and Millie Tani for creating the imaginative gifts, as well as the table centerpieces!

A “2016 Year in Review” slide presentation, created by Richard Fukuhara, showed our members having fun at last year’s Shinnen-enkai and annual picnic.

Naomi Suenaka next hosted the popular and always fun Bingo games with the assistance of Remi and Shogo Hayashi.

Door prizes were then distributed to all attendees by our NYK youngsters.

To close out the luncheon, everyone stood to sing NYK’s signature song, “Ue o Muite Aruko-o”, better known as “Sukiyaki”. Arturo thanked everyone for attending and wished one and all a wonderful 2017! And with that, the luncheon ended with smiling faces and promises to see each other at our upcoming picnic.

2017 Board
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
Advisors and Board Members

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

Questions? Suggestions? Comments?
Email us at Nanka.Yamaguchi.Kenjinkai@gmail.com

Please add this to your email account 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!