



PRESS RELEASE
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For more information:
Diane Tanaka 310.962.2698
pr@niseiweek.org

ALICE MARINA AMANO NAMED 2018 NISEI WEEK QUEEN

LOS ANGELES – August 12, 2018 – The Nisei Week Foundation is pleased to announce that Alice Marina Amano was crowned the 78th Nisei Week Queen at the Aratani Theatre in Little Tokyo at its Nisei Week Coronation on August 11. Kelly Midori Tsunawaki Mock was named 1st Princess, and Juli Ann Drindak was chosen Miss Tomodachi by the other candidates. Amano is 22 years old and recently graduated from California State University, Long Beach, with a bachelor's degree in dance. In her spare time, she enjoys going to the beach, swimming in the ocean, and seeking for opportunities to share her art with others whether it be through performing, choreographing, or teaching dance. This year, she will support ASTEP, Artists Striving To End Poverty, a nonprofit organization whose core mission is to empower youth in hopes to end the cycle of poverty through the powerful medium of art.

Amano represented the Orange County Nikkei Coordinating Council. During her speech, she spoke about spoke about being shy as a child. Her mom signed her up for dance lessons to help her overcome her shyness and she's been dancing ever since. Asked why she participated in the Nisei Week queen's program, she stated it's because she wants the opportunity to spread the arts to the greater Japanese American community. She is the daughter of Michael and Rie Amano of Buena Park, Calif.

The 2018 Nisei Week Court members are:

1st Princess - Kelly Midori Tsunawaki Mock (Japanese Restaurant Association of America)

Mock is 24 years old and graduated from the University of California, Irvine with a Bachelor of Science in mathematics with a specialization in education. She currently attends California State University, Long Beach, to obtain a teaching credential and pursue a career as a high school math teacher. She works for the City of Irvine in child care services and organizes after-school programs for elementary school kids. In her free time, she loves to dance ballet, jazz, and hip hop and travel to as many places as possible in the United States. She has been to 45 out of the 50 states. The platform she will support this year is AbilityFirst, an organization that provides social and recreational programs for children with disabilities.

Miss Tomodachi - Juli Ann Drindak (Pasadena Japanese Cultural Institute)

Drindak is 23 years old and in 2017 graduated from California State University, Long Beach, with a bachelor's degree in child development and family studies. She is taking a year of educational leave before she completes her certificate in communicative sciences and disorders. She aspires to be a

speech and language pathologist in a hospital setting. Currently, she works part time as a childcare provider at Fit4mom and as a server at a fusion restaurant called Cafe Hiro. In her free time she enjoys playing the violin, and traveling to places, near and far, to experience different cultures and outdoor activities such as camping, scuba diving, and hang gliding. This year she will continue her ambassadorship at Girls on the Run Los Angeles, where she plans to support and encourage female empowerment in girls ages 8-13 through exercise and interactive lessons on life skills.

Princess - Tori Ai Kamada (Gardena Evening Optimist)

Kamada is 23 years old and graduated from California State University, Long Beach, with a Bachelor of Science in business administration, with an emphasis in human resources management. She is currently a talent and human resources coordinator at Saatchi & Saatchi, Los Angeles, a full-service advertising agency. In her free time, she enjoys bullet journaling, weight training at the gym, and shopping at Trader Joe's to discover new and healthy snacks. The platform she has chosen to support this year is the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, whose mission is to find better ways to prevent suicide through research and advocacy, create a culture that is educated on mental health, and bring hope to those affected by suicide.

Princess - Lauren Rei Miyamoto (East San Gabriel Valley Japanese Community Center)

Miyamoto is 23 years old and graduated from California State University, Northridge with a Bachelor of Science in kinesiology. In the future, she plans to obtain a doctorate degree in physical therapy. Currently she works as a teacher's assistant at the East San Gabriel Valley Japanese Community Center Kokoro No Sato Infant Care Center. In her spare time she likes to do pilates, work on puzzles, and walk her poodles Kona and Lexi. This year she will support the American Heart Association, whose mission is to build healthier lives, free of cardiovascular diseases and stroke.

Princess - Marica Katie Snyder (Venice Japanese Community Center & Venice-West Los Angeles JACL)

Snyder is 25 years old and attended California State University, Los Angeles, where she majored in business administration. Currently, she is the office manager at Elder Law Services of California, a law firm that specializes in estate planning, Medi-Cal planning, and probate. In her spare time, she enjoys singing her heart out at karaoke, checking out the newest Broadway musical in Southern California, and using her creativity through various graphic design projects. The platform she chose to support is the Alzheimer's Association. This organization focuses on the awareness, care, support, and research for this debilitating disease.

The court will represent the Nisei Week Foundation at community events locally and nationally (including Nagoya, Japan) throughout the year.

The 2018 Nisei Week Japanese Festival is a nine-day event first held in 1934, and is recognized today as one of the longest running ethnic festivals in the United States. This event will take place in Los Angeles' Little Tokyo district from August 11-19. For a calendar of events, log on to www.NiseiWeek.org, call the Nisei Week Foundation office at 213.687.7193 or email info@niseiweek.org. The Nisei Week office is located at 244 South San Pedro Street, Suite 303, Los Angeles, CA 90012.

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