The USJA at
45 years old

1966 - 1969

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This month marks the 45th year since the founding of our United States Judo Association. On this occasion we have decided to republish excerpts from the very first issue of our magazine.

The governance of U.S. Judo started in 1952, through the efforts of Dr. Henry A. Stone, Major Donn Draeger (USMC), and others. At that time there was no national authority to give guidance to local judo communities and insure the logical and orderly development of judo as a sport. The Amateur Judo Association (AJA) was a first attempt at establishing a national governing structure in conjunction with the Amateur Athletic Union (AAU). Dr. Stone served as the first president. Authority to grant the most coveted Kodokan Judo ranks was assumed by the national organization. High ranking individuals were no longer permitted to grant promotions independently. The growth of local judo organizations was further encouraged, promotion privileges were granted to yudanshakais (regional black belt associations), and a national communications network was opened.

One of the first Judo groups to organize was the 15th Air Force Judo Association that began in the Physical Conditioning Unit at March AFB in late 1956. Prior to that in the early 50's the Strategic Air Command set up a physical conditioning unit at Offutt Air Force Base, Omaha, Nebraska, home of SAC. This unit proved so successful that General Curtis E. LeMay, then SAC's Commander-in-Chief, directed that similar units be set up at other bases.

Self-defense was not SAC's sole reason for stressing such training. Combined with a preliminary conditioning course, the specialized training was designed to bring into play every muscle of an airman's body. Net effect is to leave the average crew member more alert, physically and mentally, and be able to endure the grueling pressures and demands of the long missions they fly.

Emilio “Mel” Bruno of Strategic Air Command (SAC) was the foster child of Roy H. (Pop) Moore a school teacher at a high school in Inglewood, California. In 1932 Moore was contacted to train some of the top Japanese judoka in wrestling. This included Professor Kotani of the Kodokan. Since Mel Bruno was one his foster dad's top wrestlers at the high school, it was natural that friendship would blossom between Bruno and Kotani. This life-long association lasted over four decades.
Bruno was one of chief individuals responsible for the introduction and development of a judo program in SAC and other commands. During his four years there Bruno personally instructed General Curtis Lemay and General Thomas S. Power as well as key command personnel. Bruno helped to initiate a program in which Air Force classes and teams could participate in direct training at the Kodokan Judo Institute.

The Japanese reciprocated and sent a Kodokan team to visit U.S. Air Force bases in 1953, while Bruno was busy guiding the early development of the Midwestern Yudanshakai.

In 1957, the Air Force Judo Association (AFJA) was admitted as a yudanshakai to the Judo Black Belt Federation (JBBF) of the United States under Mel Bruno. Also in that same year Sergeant George Harris won the Grand Championship in the National AAU Judo Championships in Hawaii.

With the addition of members Bill Nagase, Sam Numahiri in Fort Worth, Karl Geis and Rick Landers in Houston, and Air Force Sergeant Rick Mertens in Shreveport, the Southwestern U.S. Judo Association came into being as a yudanshakai of the JBBF. This new yudanshakai annexed small areas out of several exiting yudanshakais which covered the states of Texas, Louisiana, Arkansas, Oklahoma, and New Mexico. By then Judo was only loosely organized into groups within Air Force Commands.

Soon these groups formed a larger body to encompass the entire U.S. Air Force and looked for someone to command the associations. Around 1960, Darrell Darling, Phil Porter, Paul Own, Wally Barber, who was director of the local YMCA, and Mike Manly met at Dr. Sachio Ashida’s house and decided to form a yudanshakai. They framed a constitution and made contacts with the yudanshakai officers in Chicago and Denver to implement the project. In 1961 the yudanshakai, which covered the greater part of six states, was formed.

In 1966, Rick Mertens, who lived in Bossier City, La, retired from the U.S. Air Force and established the AFJA (which had become the Armed Forces Judo Association) office in his home. Rick served as the Executive Director of the AFJA throughout the 1960’s. After the formation of the United States Judo Association (USJA) he remained at the helm until 1977 when the headquarters was moved to St. Louis, Missouri.

By the late 60’s the differences and positions that had been fought out at the meetings culminated with the AFJA withdrawing from the JBBF as a yudanshikai. The actual founding of the USJA began to take shape at a 1968 meeting in St. Louis where the following AFJA leaders met; George Bass, Karl Geis, George Harris, Rick Mertens, Robby Reid, and Phil Porter. A year later Jim Bregman joined the AFJA’s Board of Governors at a meeting in Chicago where they officially renamed the organization the USJA on the morning of April 22nd 1969.

The JBBF changed its name to the United States Judo Federation. Both the USJF and USJA continued to remain closely aligned with the AAU which still controlled the Olympic team. However the AAU was being pressured by the USJF to only recognize them as the authorized body to govern judo in the United States. This changed in July of 1977 when the USJA became a DC corporation and successfully settled a lawsuit it brought against the AAU winning equal recognition with the USJF.

One year later the AAU was supplanted with the passing of the Amateur Sports Act in 1978. Under this act separate National Governing Bodies (NGBs) were made the requirement for each Olympic Sport.

In the 1980’s the USJA relocated its headquarters to Colorado Springs to be next to the USOC and established a National Judo Institute. After the USOC opened a national judo training center of its own the need to be based in Colorado became a moot point so the USJA’s headquarters was relocated in 2011 to Tarpon Springs, Florida.

Since its inception these individuals have served as USJA Presidents; George Bass, George Harris, Jim Nichols, Jim Bregman, Phil Porter, Jesse Jones, Mike Szreijer, Jim Webb, AnnMaria De Mars, and Gary Goltz.

Yours in Judo,
Gary Goltz
USJA President

Growing Judo, May 2014
JUDO a matter of Coaching, Training or Finance

I recently participated in a facebook blog that discussed why American judo has not progressed as it has in most other countries. One person did not want to fund competitive teams from other countries to come to our own when our own competitors receive very little if any money to succeed.

When I took my two daughters to compete in Harres, France I learned that any of the children from Belgium who place 1st at that event had their boarding school paid for by the government. This included Judo training at an early age every day.

Another blogger argued that the coaches should be paid in order to devote all their time to training their competitors and not have to go to work all day and then teach at their dojo which is more of a side gig.

When we look at it funding for what ever your thought process is important. Someone else stated that 95% of judoka in the USA are casually training and don’t train to attain high level of competition.

All of the points mentioned above have merit. So what do we do to improve judo in the USA? It seems to me that all of the above need to improve and in order to do that we have to improve the public’s knowledge of this great sport and martial art.

We had Kyla Harrison receive the first Gold medal in the Olympics and it brought a lot of attention to Judo. That is a great start and we need to continue to produce high medals in order get the coverage Judo needs.

Yes we should have funding for coaches in different parts of the USA to have organized training centers with high level competitors and instructors. It is obvious that every dojo can not be funded so the instructor can only teach.

Players that are competing and going to high level tournament need to be funded and I am happy to say that the USJA has recently restarted a development fund as the other two organizations already have. Donations are imperative so please consider donating even a small amount adds up.

The last blog was that 95% of judo players are casual players. From talking to many of the coaches around the country, I have found that most don’t even know how the point process works and how to get one or more of their students on a National team. Coaches get training but somewhere along the line no one has taught them how to obtain these high level competitors. Yes coaches in many areas need more training for their own ability and understanding the system and maybe that number will go down from 95%.

As we can see there is not just one answer to the hurdles the USA has in building judo but we can attempt to answer them one at a time.

Yours in Judo,

John Paccione
Our NEW USJA Clubs!

ASU Judo Club  ( Class Regular )
Head Instructor: David James Howard
Email: david.howard1951@gmail.com
Location: Heber Springs, AR
Phone: 501-681-6530

Bushikan of Puyallup  ( Class Regular )
Head Instructor: Benjamin Goucher
Email: bgbushi@aol.com
Location: Puyallup, WA
Phone: 253-312-8650

Rock Fitness  ( Class Regular )
Head Instructor: Roberto Rodriguez
Email: eaglevit@aol.com
Location: Piscataway, NJ
Phone: 908-313-8527

Newly Certified USJA Coaches

Congratulations to our Newly Certified USJA Coaches

- John Haman, Arkansas Goshinkan, Little Rock, AR
- Daniel R. Hoffman, Sr., Eastside Judo Club, Stacy, MN
- David James Howard, ASU Judo Club, Tumbling Shoals, AR
- Stuart Ramos, Jason Morris Judo Club, Scotia, NY
We would like to express our sincere appreciation to the following individuals for their generous support of the United States Judo Association:

- **Andrew Connelly**, School of Hard Knocks Judo Club, Spring, TX
- **Allen E. Johnson**, Emerald City Judo, Redmond, WA
- **George McManus**, Unattached Texas
- **David Reaver**, Goltz Judo, Upland, CA
Nokido Ju-Jitsu, Judo, and BJJ

On March 29th, 2014, Nokido Ju-Jitsu, Judo, and BJJ held its grand re-opening at its new location in 1050 Innovation Ave. Unit B109, in North Port, Fl. Nokido is a USJA chartered club.

The day started out with Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu instruction by Professor Dave Gatke from Wolf Pack Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu. Nokido is also a certified affiliate under Wolf Pack Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu Professor Charles Dos Anjos, who is also a USJA Judo black belt. Lunch was provided by Matt O’Kon, who barbequed some of the best pulled pork we have ever tasted. Matt’s son Landon is one of our Nokido students.

The afternoon session of Judo and Japanese Ju-Jitsu was led by Sensei David Parritt and Sensei John Newton from Melbourne, Fl. Sensei Parritt is a longtime friend and mentor of Nokido Sensei Earl DelValle.

Students from Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu, Judo and Japanese Ju-Jitsu schools all practiced together and had a great time learning from each other. Mutual benefit and welfare at its finest.

Sensei Earl DelValle and Sensei Chris Ritchie were pleased with the turnout and the support from their friends and students. The dojo’s new location is larger and has a spring board tatami floor that is great to take falls on. If you’re ever in the North Port area, please stop in for some great training.
Nokido Ju-Jitsu, Judo, and BJJ

Professor Dave Gatke and Nokido Student, Matt Logan

Nokido Students

Chris Ritchie, Earl DelValle David Parritt, John Newton

Sensei John Newton Throwing
A Friday Night with Sensei Deborah Fergus

At Yama Naka Jujitsu, Friday nights are reserved for judo practice. On March 28th, the dojo welcomed Sensei Deborah Fergus, Judo Yodan and National Referee from Michigan. She spent the evening with us after spending a full day conquering the local ski hill, Snowbowl. She incorporated a spirit of play on the mat, exemplified in the warm-ups with a couple of relay races followed by a rousing game of freeze tag. Adults have just as much fun with games as juniors.

Throughout the evening, Sensei Fergus revisited fundamentals, paying particular attention to no-strength judo. She highlighted using leverage and proper positioning rather than sheer strength. Some students discovered the ancient art of squatting (bend the knees!). Another of her many insights was to practice Uchikomi up against the wall to acquire a sense of ideal form. Noticing the angle and position of the back is critical to many throwing arts and can then be applied when working with a partner.

Relaxation and mental flexibility were her focus when the class transitioned to Newaza. She conveyed her point by stopping the engagement with a student to highlight when the student was using brute force. Sensei Fergus demonstrated a great new no-strength counter to Kesa Gatame, giving hope to students who had been told to ‘just bench press them off’. All students experienced a paradigm shift because of this new approach to grappling, even those who have been around for a while.

Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the practice and Yama Naka Jujitsu looks forward to welcoming Sensei Fergus back next year.

Jeanette McGrath’s Bio

Jeanette McGrath have been practicing martial arts for over 20 years as life has allowed. She is currently a Judo Shodan, Dan Zan Ryu Jujitsu Nidan, and the school head of Yama Naka Jujitsu.
The small club assembled as Sensei entered. He noted attendance, and then with a nod of his head signaled the ranking student to shout "Kiyotsuke! Rei!"

After the bow-in, Sensei directed stretches and exercises for about 15 minutes, followed by ukemi. Then Sensei chose a student and worked with him on tai-otoshi.

"Grip normally, but with left hand far out on your opponent’s sleeve," said Sensei. "Then turn your head to your left as you lift your left hand as though looking at your wristwatch. Bend your right arm at the elbow, and put the elbow into your opponent’s armpit. Pivot on the balls of your feet so that your body and head face your opponent’s left hand. As your opponent loses balance to his right, raise your right heel so that your body will turn more to your left, making your opponent fly, guided by your hands, to land on his back."

Sensei repeated this, correcting each small mistake. After about 15 minutes, he chose another student and repeated the process. After he’d worked with four students, it was randori time. After five minutes each of mat and standing randori, class ended. Students lined up. Sensei told them about the throw they had studied and announced forthcoming tournaments. They bowed out. All was quiet until Sensei left the mat, after which time the students departed.

Enter a new Sensei. This Sensei entered the dojo to his place of honor. Playing and chatting students saw him and lined up. He scanned his students for uniform problems and to see who was missing. Satisfied, he nodded to his ranking student and they bowed in.

Then Sensei hollered, “Let’s do it!” and everyone began to run sideways around the dojo. Several exercises were races that allowed smaller, younger students to start first. They practiced “bulldogging” until sweat was pouring, then played “snatch the bacon” for three minutes until even the newest student was concentrating on what was happening.

Then an older student lead vocabulary study for about seven minutes. Ukemi followed, after which Sensei demonstrated a new throw.

"Watch," said Sensei, as he took a student and threw him so fast he barely had time to slap the mat. "Again." But this time the throw was slower, and even though the student resisted as hard as he could, he again went flying. His fall was gentle.

Sensei explained, "Your left hand is near the end of your opponent’s sleeve. You lift that hand as though to look at your wristwatch. Then bend your right arm, inserting your right elbow into your opponent’s left armpit. Use that elbow to lift your opponent as you back step with your left foot." He demonstrated while speaking. "Now," he said, "turn your body to your left, and shoot your right foot, toe down, in front of your opponent’s right ankle. Keep your left hand high as you pivot to your left, and then drive your right hand to the mat as if punching the floor with your opponent’s judogi." Once more the student flew. "Get a partner and start practicing."

Even in the small class many made mistakes, but Sensei corrected each. A couple had the throw nailed, though Sensei knew that they couldn’t execute it in randori for several months. After almost 40 minutes of standing work, the class practiced pins and escapes, with Sensei correcting smaller and smaller errors. After five minutes each of mat and standing randori, Sensei called, "Line up!"
Sensei declared that they had done well but needed practice on this new throw. After announcing forthcoming tournaments and who was eligible, he nodded to his ranking student, who brought the class to attention for bowing-out. All was quiet until Sensei left the mat, after which students ran to change and go home with their parents.

So which teaching method is better? Sensei number one has many students successful in shiai but a high number of dropouts. He focuses his teaching on a select few, with most of the class observing. Sensei number two's students don't excel in shiai, but his dropout rate is small. He concentrates on demonstrating and having the entire class participate, correcting players as they work on the techniques.

What do you think?

E. E. Carol, former Police Olympics silver medalist, has practiced martial arts for 40 years, including over 30 years under Vince Tamura. Carol Sensei teaches at his Ichi Ni San Judo and Jujitsu Club in Kemp, Texas, where he is terrorized by seven-year-olds. He holds godan judo and sandan jiu-jitsu ranks.
Most everyone enjoys collecting something. Judoka collect judo items, such as pins and patches. Colorful T-shirts commemorate tournaments and camps. Many judoka, incredibly, are unaware of judo coins, stamps, and telephone cards.

The world’s largest online collection of coins, stamps, and phonecards of judo, plus coins, stamps, and phonecards of 34 other martial arts, categorizes them by type, country, and denomination, with information about each item. See images of over 4,000 of these collectibles, including about 140 coins, at www.judostamps.org.

This article addresses metal content, shapes, and colors. Images are not actual size. Be aware of tokens, which look like coins but are not spendable. To differentiate between tokens and real coinage, look for denomination.

Armenia, Australia, Canada, Congo Democratic Republic, Cuba, Equatorial Guinea, Fiji, France, Isle of Man, Israel, Republic of Korea, Mongolia, Tonga, United Kingdom, USSR, and Russia have issued judo coins, some more than one. Israel, Mongolia, and Russia have minted three different judo coins each. Brazil will mint its first in a year or two to commemorate the 2016 Olympics in Rio de Janeiro.

Some coins, such as this one from Brazil, are bimetallic, using more than one metal.

Coins are minted in various metals; the rarer the metal, the higher the cost. In many instances the image is the same, as it is on coins of Cuba and Israel, though denomination increases with higher-valued metal content.

Recent issues from Russia have a blackened background, resulting in a striking appearance.

Most collectors will be satisfied with common metal judo coins. Those with a yen for complete collections may have to sell their homes to finance their hobby — gold and platinum coins are costly!

There are varying qualities of manufacture: regular and proof quality. Proofs are double-struck on specially prepared planchets using dies, often polished, of the highest quality. Proofs present a mirror-like reflection.

SHAPE

Most coins of the world are round and solid, though some have round or square holes. Doughnut coins make nice jewelry items, and if your loincloth lacks pockets, you can string such coins around your neck or wrist. From a production perspective, holed coins require less metal.
There are no holy judo coins. But several numismatic items are not round.

The UK 50-pence piece has seven edges; and there are a couple of multi-edged tokens: a square one from the Canadian Olympic Association and, edging out the competition, pandas doing judo on a Chinese token with 11 edges.

COLOR
A typical coin is of a single color determined by metallic content. Coins of Israel and Russia and the one yet to be minted from Brazil have two tones or metals in the same coin.

Coins from Armenia and Mongolia and a Chinese mascot token showing pandas in action have color.

Some of the 20 virtual coins from the United States are bimetallic, and several are colored.

Australia minted a colorful token of Syd, the Sydney Olympics mascot. Syd's a platypus.
A most colorful and beautifully designed item is the Kodokan Judo Challenge token. Supposedly a judoka is expected to carry this around to produce if asked — challenged — to do so. Otherwise, according to tradition, drinks are on him or her.

Since America — unlike progressive nations such as Armenia, Equatorial Guinea, Isle of Man, Congo Democratic Republic, Fiji, and Mongolia — has never minted a judo coin, I took the initiative to design some, with assistance from colleague and technological wizard Barry Stebbins. We created virtual coins, many featuring me. They are on the www.judostamps.org website under COINS, USA. Don't seek them at a coin shop or show. Though they don't physically exist, I wouldn't object if someone with a mint and metal were of a mind to create prototypes. Send me one.

Of course, no virtual collection would omit colored coins. Some of these USA items have silver and gold on the same coin.

And because I reside in the Bible Belt — which is not a judo rank — the expression IN GOD WE TRUST... THE REST WE THROW has meaning.

The USA virtual judo coin items are beautiful, unavailable everywhere, and worthless. But they are worth seeing. You won't find judo coins in circulation. They are collector items that you must purchase from a coin shop or show or through the Internet on eBay. But you can view them at any time, frequently and without cost, on the Judo Stamps, Coins, and Phonecards website. It's almost as good as having these in your own hand.

Ronald Allan Charles, Ph.D, noted authority on judo coins, stamps, and phonecards, is a Coach of the Year and ranked 8th dan judo and 6th dan jujitsu. Dr. Charles operates the USJA’s largest club, the Samurai Judo Association, headquartered in beautiful, romantic Goose Creek, South Carolina.

Video: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Kbvi37TvOHQ.
I was born in Korea in 1935. I grew up in a small town near Daejeon. My first exposure to Judo came from my older brother. He showed me some techniques in the backyard. When I entered high school I started to seriously train myself. Judo became my life. Through Judo I was able to go college at the Yudo College which was later renamed Yong-In University.

After I won the National Championships for the second time, I became well known throughout Korea. I had the honor of teaching many members of the US military including some officers. I was invited to tour the United States teaching Judo. After visiting the United States, I decided I wanted to stay here. It was through Judo I was able to do this. I settled in Pittsburgh, PA and opened my dojo.

Today I have two dojos and also teach an accredited course at the University of Pittsburgh. I have had the honor of teaching thousands of people including several national champions and the current president of the USJA. I even coached the US Team.

Judo is quite literally my life. It brought me to this country. It is how I make a living. It is how I raised my family. My son is a professional judo instructor and my grandchildren are active competitors. I hope to see Judo grow in this country because it has so much to offer. I believe the world would be a better place if everyone did judo.

The frontispiece of this article and the above excerpt are from the book, The Judo Greats: A Portrait Series of oil paintings by Sensei Andor Paposi-Jobb, Professor Emeritus of Fine Arts at Clarion State University of Pennsylvania.

Grandmaster Kyu Ha Kim stands where he has stood for over fifty years, in front of a group of students patiently explaining the subtleties of a Judo technique. At just over seventy-eight years old, he has the erect carriage of a much younger man, the result of a lifetime of martial arts training. Standing six feet two inches tall and weighing two hundred thirty pounds, he is an imposing figure. Once described as a, “large and joyous man,” he radiates kindness. His school in Brentwood, Pennsylvania echoes with the sound of his laughter. Quiet, humble and self-effacing, few of the students listening with rapt attention know that the kindly man standing before them is a martial artist of rare accomplishment- a 9th degree black belt in Judo and an 8th degree black belt in Taekwondo—or that in June of 2008, he became the oldest successful heart transplant recipient in the history of the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center.

Kyu Ha Kim was born on February 24, 1935 near the city of Daejeon, in rural the province of South Chungcheong (abv. Chungnam), approximately 100 miles south of Seoul, Korea. His parents were farmers, who raised livestock, tended fruit trees, and grew vegetables, beans, corn and rice on the family farm. Members of his family continue to live on and work the farm to this day.
Kyu Ha Kim began his martial arts training in his home village at the age of five; his first teacher was his elder half-brother, Kyu Tae Kim. At fifteen, Kyu Ha Km entered Tae Jon High School and began formal martial arts training under Han Sang Yul. Training was rigorous: two hours daily, six days a week, Monday through Saturday. Sundays were, “rest days,” although students often gathered to practice, “light uchi komi (Judo repetition fitting),” for a “few hours,” on Sunday afternoons! Training was undifferentiated by discipline and included a broad spectrum of martial arts techniques we would recognize today as Jui-Jitsu, Judo, or its Korean interpretation, Yudo, and Taekwondo (note: the name Taekwondo was not applied to the group of Korean hard-style martial arts from which it was formed until the late 1950’s). Kyu Ha Kim’s Judo students practice striking, both Judo atemi waza and basic Taekwondo and his Taekwondo students learn Judo ukemi waza and fundamental Judo throws. Kyu Ha Kim continued to train in this manner until his graduation from Tae Jon High School, at which time he published to 1st degree black belt. His promotion to 1st degree black belt did not come easily, however. In spite of his dedication to the school's demanding training regimen and his success in high school tournament competition, he failed his promotional test for 1st degree black belt nine times before finally succeeding!

When Kyu Ha Kim graduated from high school the Korean War (1950-1953) was raging. Like many young Korean men, in spite of the 80% casualty rate, Kyu Ha Kim planned to join the army. Fortunately, his Judo instructor, Han Sang Yul, convinced him that his life’s path was in a different direction and that he should pursue a career as a martial arts teacher. Kyu Ha Kim followed his advice and went on to study physical education at what was then the Korean Yudo college, now Yong-In University), from 1954-1958. Founded in Sogong-dong in 1953 as a two year college, it became recognized as a four year institution in 1956 with the establishment of the Dae Myung School. The Yudo College was the first college level institution devoted to martial arts training in Asia. Its name was later changed to Yong-in University to reflect the addition of a full academic curriculum to the wide array of martial arts taught and practiced: Judo, Taekwondo, Hapkido, Kumdo, Kuksumdo, Ssirium, etc. Admittance to the Yudo College was only granted to the most qualified black belt applicants. Kyu Ha Kim was among the first students accepted into the Yudo College’s inaugural class, which originally numbered thirty-eight students, only twelve of whom graduated! The curriculum at the Yudo College consisted of academic university classes and hour upon hour of rigorous martial arts training. Training was even more arduous than Kyu Ha Km experience in high school, often up to three hours a day with high level Yudoin (Yudo practitioners; equivalent to Judoka). Students eschewed, “tapping out,” the customary indication of submission when practicing groundwork and were regularly choked to unconsciousness! While enrolled at Yong-in University, Kyu Ha Kim studied under Grandmaster Jin Kyung Suk, who was among the highest ranked Judo practitioners in Korea at that time.

Students lived at Yong-in University during the year and were only permitted to return to their homes during summer recess. On one occasion, unhappy with his left-side Judo technique, within a few days of returning to his home, Kyu Ha Kim went back to the University to drill his left-side techniques exclusively for the balance of the summer.

In 1955, during his second semester at the Yudo College, Kyu Ha Kim qualified for the Korean National Judo Championships and was placed on the Chungnam province five man Judo team (note: During this time, under Syngman Rhee, Korea’s first post WWII President, martial arts competition between provinces was instituted as a means to foster Korean nationalism.) Kyu Ha Kim represented his province both as an individual and a team member. In 1958, he won the Korean National Judo Championship, both as an individual and team member, a feat he repeated in 1960. Normally, students were promoted to 4th degree black belt upon graduation from Yong-in University, however, in recognition of his two national championships, when graduated in 1958; Kyu Ha Kim was promoted to 5th degree black belt.
Kyu Ha Kim attended the Korean Yudo College during the aftermath of the Korean War. The years following the Korean War, on the heels of WW II and the extended occupation and effort to colonize Korea by Japan (1910-1945), was a time of unimaginable loss and deprivation. The war which raged across the Manchurian peninsula resulted in hardship of every description, including widespread food shortages. Kyu Ha Kim’s family occupation as farmers spared them from much of the starvation experienced by so many of his countrymen, although he vividly recalls days with little, if any, food. Families were often forced to abandon their homes to flee from advancing troops. At one point, Kyu Ha Kim’s entire village was destroyed and the surrounding countryside was reduced to ash by bombing and the subsequent firestorm. The training hall where he spent hours everyday did not escape damage. Glass was often broken out of windows, allowing snow to blow onto the mat in the winter. Fuel was scarce; the training hall often went unheated. The training hall was freezing in the winter and stifling hot in the summer. Streets, damaged during the war, remained unpaved. Eventually, the training hall was completely destroyed during a bombing run, only to be rebuilt by Kyu Ha Kim and his fellow students, determined to continue their training. Throughout and despite these harsh conditions, Kyu Ha Kim continued to train.

In 1959, Kyu Ha Kim was given the honor of returning to Yong-in University to teach Judo and was also invited by the Korean Air Force Academy to teach martial arts. By so doing, he became the first Judo instructor to teach at a Korean military academy. These events mark the beginning of Kyu Ha Kim’s more than fifty-year career as a professional martial teacher. It was during this time that his students bestowed the title, “The Tree,” upon him when they found it virtually impossible to unbalance him during randori (free sparring)!

It was also in 1959 when Kyu Ha Kim began formal training in Taekwondo. Grandmaster Jin Kyung Suk, Kyu Ha Kim’s Judo teacher, to complement Kyu Ha Kim’s Judo training, recommended and introduced him to Grandmaster Hwang Ki, the founder of the Moo Do Kwan Tang Soo Do School. Grandmaster Hwang sent one of his best assistant instructors, Kyung Won Lee, to the Korean air Force Academy to teach Tang Soo Do. Kyung Won Lee taught Kyu Ha Kim Tang Soo Do and Kyu Ha Kim taught Kyung Won Lee Judo. At the time Kyu Ha Kim began training, Grandmaster Hwang Ki referred to his art as Tang Soo Do (Grandmaster Hwang’s art underwent several name changes: Hwa Soo Do, Soo Bahk Do...). It was during this period of time, when a number of Korean hard-style striking arts were integrated and named Taekwondo that a schism developed within Moo Doo Kwan Tang Soo Do; a number of senior practitioners elected to join the unification movement and a number of others, including Grandmaster Hwang, elected not to join. To this day, there remains a distinct martial art, Soo Bahk Do Moo Do Kwan, led by Grandmaster Hwang Ki’s son, Hwang Hyun Chul. That portion of Grandmaster Hwang Ki’s martial art that was integrated into Taekwondo is referred to as Moo Do Kwan Taekwondo, the form of Taekwondo practiced by Kyu Ha Kim’s students.

In December of 1959, Kyu Ha Kim had the pleasure of engaging in a randori session with the giant Dutch martial arts luminary, Mr. Jon Bluming. Mr. Bluming trained in Judo, Karate, Iaido and Jojutsu in Japan from 1959-1961. Mr. Bluming also visited the Philippines and Korea, where he met Kyu Ha Kim. Mr. Bluming is currently a 10th degree black belt in Masutatsu Oyama’s tough kyokushinkai style of karate and a 9th degree black belt in Judo. The encounter between Mr. Bluming and Kyu Ha Km is described in detail from Mr. Bluming’s point of view in an article in Journal of Combative Sport, November 1, 1999, Doing Judo at the Korean Yudo College,”The Day I Met Kyu Ha Kim.” The outcome of their randori session is best described by Jon Bluming:“...it was the last thing that was easy about Kim Kyu-Ha, for after that he completely vacuum-cleaned the mat with me, which convinced that, yes, this was the Korean champ.”

Kyu Ha Kim continued to teach at both Yong-in University and the Korean Air Force Academy until he was invited to visit the United States in 1961. Kyu Ha Kim was among the first wave of Korean martial arts masters to leave Korea to disseminate their arts to the world, a distinguished company which in the US includes such martial arts giants as Daeshik Kim, Chan-Yong Kim and Jhoon Rhee. After a brief sojourn in
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, before permanently settling in Pittsburgh.

Kyu Ha Kim’s initial exposure to the US included attendance at any number of Judo seminars and tournaments where he often found himself challenged by local Judoka, eager to test their skills against those of the two-time Korean Champion. On one such occasion, while attending a tournament at the US Air Force Academy, he was asked to, “take the line,” i.e., engage in randori sequentially with a series of young Judoka.

Kyu Ha Kim was able to easily overcome everyone with little apparent effort. When asked how he was able to do so with such ease, he replied, “Simple! I work harder than all of you!”

Upon his arrival in Pittsburgh, Kyu Ha Kim began teaching martial arts at a small dojo, The Pittsburgh Judo School. After that, he taught at the Young Men’s Hebrew Association (YMHA) in order to maintain his visa.

Kyu Ha Kim also began to teach Judo at the Pittsburgh Athletic Association (PAA) to a number of Pittsburgh’s prominent citizens, including Bob Prince, the Pittsburgh Pirates baseball team’s long time radio announcer. In less than two years, he opened his own school, Kim’s Judo & Karate, in the South hills area of Pittsburgh. In addition to teaching at his school, Kyu Ha Kim played a central role in organizing Judo and Taekwondo in Pennsylvania and on the East coast.

From 1964-1978, he was a member of the National Judo Promotion Board where he was instrumental in instituting a number of substantive changes to the Judo promotion process including the establishment of regional governing bodies with promotional authority. In 1965, Kyu Ha Kim became the first president of the Pennsylvania state Judo organization, Pennsylvania Judo, Inc., a post currently held by his son, Eugene Kim, a 6th degree black belt in both Judo and Taekwondo. In 1972, Mr. Gary Goltz, then a freshman at the University of Pittsburgh and student of Kyu
Ha Kim at the YMHA, petitioned the University to institute a Judo program. Mr. Goltz, was an early student of Kyu Ha Kim in Pittsburgh who only undertook Judo when Kyu Ha Kim agreed to reimburse Mr. Goltz’ father for his uniform if his son didn’t like Judo. Mr. Goltz is now a Shichidan, 7th degree black belt, and is currently the president of the USJA. As a result, Kyu Ha Kim was invited to teach credit courses in Judo, Taekwondo and Jui-Jitsu by the University where he continues to teach over forty years later. In 1985, as coach of the University of Pittsburgh’s Judo team, he was selected as the National Collegiate Judo Coach of the Year.

Although Kyu Ha Kim’s primary interest has always been teaching martial arts, he has also coached prominently at both the national and international level.

- Named as the US Judo Team Coach for the Pan American Games and World Championships is 1976 and 1977 respectively
- Appointed US National Judo Team Coach for the World Championships in Barcelona, Spain
- In 1977, selected to coach the US Team at the first Kano Cup in Tokyo, Japan, a prestigious Judo tournament reserved for the top twenty Judo countries in the world.
- In 1979, elected the US Olympic Team Coach for the 1980 Olympic Games, which the US chose to boycott

Kyu Ha Kim has taught literally hundreds of Judo and Taekwondo students and produced scores of state and national champions. The achievements of three students are of particular note: Ms. Robin Chapman Chow was the 1977 Open US National Women’s Champion, Ms. Cynthia Nicholas was an alternate on the 1996 Women’s Olympic Judo Team, and Mr. Conor Driscoll, who contended for a spot on the Men’s Olympic Judo Team in 2008, and competed in the World Judo Championships in Tokyo, Japan in 2010 as a member of the US Team.

In 1994, Kyu Ha Kim became one of the first inductees into the newly formed United States Judo Hall of Fame as one of the ten most prominent influences on the development of Judo in the United States.

In May of 2000, the Korean Judo Association and the International Judo Federation promoted Kyu Ha Kim to the rank of KuDan, 9th degree black belt, a rank few Judoka in the world have achieved. Kyu Ha Kim is the youngest individual in the history of Judo to be accorded this honor.

Early in his eighth decade, Kyu Ha Kim face what was to be his greatest challenge. In 2007, his health began to deteriorate. As a result of a virus, he developed idiopathic cardiomyopathy, a degenerative heart condition. Eventually, his heart condition deteriorated to the point where, in July of 2007, his doctors elected to implant a pacemaker. This procedure, although initially successful, became complicated by a series of staph infections, which required him to spend weeks in the hospital. As his heart muscle continued to deteriorate, it became clear that a heart transplant had to be considered. The initial evaluation of Kyu Ha Kim as a heart transplant candidate was not encouraging, notwithstanding his extraordinary level of fitness. His age at the time, seventy-three, was considered a deterrent. This fact, coupled with the scarcity of donor hearts—the Mayo Clinic estimates the number of individuals increases by 4,000 each day-made a heart transplant unlikely.

At first, Kyu Ha Kim was reluctant to consider heart replacement surgery. It was only after extended conversation with his former student, Mr. Gary Goltz that he agreed to add his name to the heart transplant recipient waiting list. Mr. Goltz reminded Kyu Ha Kim that he had a profound influence on his life and that he should do whatever was necessary to extend his life and continue to positively influence the lives young people, especially those of his grandsons. Like a champion, Kyu Ha Kim agreed.
Although the prognosis was bleak, Kyu Ha Kim and his family refused to surrender to fate and eventually found their way to the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center and a wonderful team of doctors led by his surgeon, Dr. Christian Bermudez. The medical staff conducted yet another battery of tests and concluded that in spite of his age, Kyu Ha Kim’s physical condition made him an excellent candidate for a heart transplant. According to Dr. Bermudez, only a tiny fraction of potential heart transplant patients with circumstances similar to Kyu Ha Kim successfully undergo this procedure. In 1980, of the twelve hundred procedures performed at UPMC, only fifteen to twenty fell into this category. Although many heart transplant recipients must wait weeks and months for a donor heart, fortunately, after only two weeks on the heart transplant waiting list, a donor heart became available. Although the donor heart was less than perfect, it exhibited signs of cardiovascular disease-Kyu Ha Kim elected, in his words, “to take a chance,” and undergo on June 28, 2008 the heart transplantation operation.

The heart transplant surgery was a ten hour procedure. The evening after the surgery, he was alert and hungry! The following day, the medical staff had him standing. In just over a month following his heart transplantation procedure, Kyu Ha Kim returned to his school and to the mat.

Dr. Bermudez attributed the success of Kyu Ha Kim’s heart transplant to his remarkable physical condition, a product of his lifelong commitment to martial arts training. Those who know him well understand that it is equally true that his survival and recovery were due in no small measure to his unconquerable spirit.
“My Family grew rice on our farm in Korea. When the rice plants were young, they grew straight and tall. As they grew older and became heavy with rice, their heads bowed.”

Grandmaster Kyu Ha Kim

Author’s note: Grandmaster Kim speaks about his many accomplishments with great reluctance. It took innumerable discussions over the course of years and input from family members, former students and colleagues to complete this narrative of GM Kim’s life. Thanks to everyone. Special thanks are due to GM Chan-Yong Kim for his help in filling in the blanks! CM

Kyu Ha Kim throwing his grandson in honor of his black belt promotion

Christopher D. Moore’s Bio

Christopher D. Moore has trained in martial arts for most of his sixty-two years and have been a student of Grandmaster Kyu Ha Kim for the past twenty-eight years. He is currently a fourth Dan in Judo and sixth Dan in Taekwondo.
Background

Most martial arts are difficult to practice for the visually impaired student. Judo however reduces many of the restriction since it is a touch sport. It is one of the few competitive sports that the visually impaired athlete can participate in fully without significant changes in normal regulations and/or equipment.

The student athlete can participate equally with sighted individuals in judo training and competition. In Shiai and Kata competitions, blind athletes have achieved great success against sighted competitors since full sight is not a major factor doing Judo.

Visually Impaired (VI) Judo athletes compete in their own Olympic event called the Paralympics. This is not to be confused with the Special Olympics as the (Paralympics) require considerable qualifications and are truly a test of the World’s best athletes. In the United States, it may be more difficult for a VI student to achieve the same level as quickly as in other Countries. Many other Countries have fully funded and staffed programs that are even larger than their sighted ones. One way to grow VI judo is to increase attention to the VI in the world of Judo. We need to train, identify and organize more coaches, dojos and athletes.

Judo (males) first competed in the Paralympics in 1988. Females entered the Games in 2004. The organizational success in the USA began largely due to the United States Association of Blind Athletes (USABA) for without their drive and support the USA might not have a team of the caliber it has at present. More recently the Paralympics has become a separate program but part of the USOC. The USABA has assumed a minor role in development and education. The NGB of Judo now is responsible for producing athletes that can compete at higher levels as well as their development and has done an excellent job building VI judo in the USA.

Today, opportunities exist for local, regional, national, and international competition, educational training camps that are specifically for blind Judo athletes happen regularly.

Not all visually impaired people are totally blind, so you can adjust your coaching accordingly. Coaching visually impaired Judo students depends on few old principles that can assist a coach in providing the best possible learning environment. You do not have to re-invent everything; use the same methods that you use when coaching any Judo student. Some adjustments however are helpful such as:

Be descriptive when you teach. You need to paint a picture with words. Use descriptions to supplement demonstrations. Be as exact and detailed as possible. When describing an action or intended result. Do not get to hung up on what may sound inappropriate such as terms like “see this”, “like this”, or “move here”. Terms involving visual cues will provide no information to a B1(someone totally blind) but this is not the end of the world they understand you are also learning to teach someone who is VI. If you slip up, just make a joke and move on. The athlete may not get information but would understand we all live in the same world and terms such as these are used.

Specify which parts of the body are involved in the technique (right or left, inside or out, hand, arm, foot) and be consistent with descriptions.

Describe the technique or drill at a normal pace as it is demonstrated. Watch the student so you can pick up body language that they do not understand this goes for sighted or VI athletes.

Ask if they understand same as you would someone with sight remember they are blind not deaf (in most cases). For some reason those that are not familiar with coaching a blind person they raise their voice or speak to someone near like the partner remember they may not see but the can hear.

If your class is mixed with sighted and VI don’t disrupt the class to have a blind student singled out to show something, unless it is a one on one. Use another assistant coach or student as a partner in the demonstration. You must sometimes in the interest of getting the point across position a hand or a foot even have them “feel”your arm or leg but this needs to be about getting the message across without making the VI athlete uncomfortable.

The visually impaired athlete is an individual, treat them as such. They are Judo Students. Don’t make assumptions about the person's abilities or skill level. There are uncoordinated students who are blind just as there are highly athletic students, there are slow and fast
learners, there are weaknesses and there are strengths to take advantage of. Deal with individual needs, but don’t treat a visually impaired person as if that person has a handicap.

Do not think of the VI athlete as handicapped, I think of them as gifted.

During instruction or training provide audible signals such as a clapping sound, so the student can determine your location in the room. I often say ‘please come towards my voice’. Do this with respect you are not calling your dog over for a treat. You need to call the athlete by name if you are referring to one athlete, they cannot see you looking at them. Also not all blind athletes are totally blind so make some adjustments.

If you need to bring an athlete to you, you might need to offer your elbow for them to hold onto as a guide so that you can direct them more quickly.

Visually impaired students cannot see so take care. They do not move off the mat area or into danger, but avoid grabbing or pulling them to direct them, unless necessary for safety. Offer to guide them if you think they may need assistance.

Rely on verbal instructions and respect the dignity of the individual. Challenge a visually impaired athlete like any other student. Expect full participation and maximum effort. Fully integrate blind students into regular Judo classes whenever possible but permit opportunities for competition and training with other blind athletes as well. Educate all the students on the special competition rules for blind athletes.

Listen to your students and let them tell you if they need assistance. Ask what you could do to help. Remember you may be a great judo coach but need to understand the World of a blind person. Avoid teaching based on misconceptions. Although some blind athletes may be good at newaza, this does not mean all blind athletes like newaza. This is the same as their sighted partners.

VI athletes can do foot sweeps, they can excel in ukemi or kata, and they can be effective in all other aspects of Judo. The visually impaired athlete does not want others to look at them with sympathy. The blind athlete would like the same opportunity to participate and learn judo as anyone else.

Exploring the Dojo for the first time.
Ask if they would like an orientation to the rooms, lockers, showers and mat area. Allow the visually impaired individual to become aware of his or her surroundings through exploration and verbal descriptions, noting any potential hazards such as weights that might be left on floor in weight room. Allow the student to be as self sufficient as possible.

Show all exits and have an emergency plan same as for sighted athletes. They should also know where the phone is. Make sure the athlete is comfortable with the surroundings. Ask if they need help. You might have to deal with sight dogs too. They are work dogs that have a job to do. Do not play or even pet without the blind person’s permission. You might have to make some allowances. These dogs are very well behaved. Discuss concerns with your blind athlete and work out a procedure that everyone can follow.

How Blind is Blind?
There are standards set to determine legally blind. The International Blind Sport Association (IBSA) sets these standards. This is not to say that other persons that fall outside these classifications are not visually impaired and someday will have reductions in sight that now place them within these guidelines.

Classification- Athletes with Blindness (IBSA)

Class B1
Total absence of and perception of light in both eyes, or some perception of light but with the inability to recognize the form of a hand at any distance.

Class B2
From the ability to recognize the form of a hand to a visual acuity of 20/600 and or a visual field of less than 5 degrees.
Visually Impaired Judo and Certification of the Judo Coach

Class B3
From a visual acuity above 20/600 to a visual acuity of 60/600 and or to a visual field of more than 5 degrees and less than 20 degrees. As measured in the best eye.

Refereeing Visually Impaired Matches
Many referees are familiar with the protocol of VI competitors, others are not. The rules that govern blind judo are covered by International Blind Sports Association IBSA. For more information consult web site IBSA.org under Judo. The rules also follow those of the International Judo Federation (IJF).

One thing to consider when refereeing is VI athlete a B1, B2, or B3 class as shown above (or another class) so safety is an issue, so is intent. A B1 cannot see the red outer bound sides of the mat so in a VI match this is matte not a penalty unless incorporated in the rules which may vary with the event. Think did they “knowingly” violate? The chief referee with the tournament director will work this out. Normally the volunteers bring the VI athlete to the edge of the mat or red zone as requested by the referee. At some point the judges escort the athletes to the starting position and return to their seats. The athletes then Rei and step forward.

At present, the athletes assume Kumi Kata and hold. When the referee says hajime they begin. They must not move their feet or hands until hajime. If so, call matte and restart. If an athlete moves, a referee may give a penalty but it is usually following a warning. Higher levels of events have stricter interpretations and implementation.

If the athletes lose contact with little hope to regain it, call matte and restart.

The referee maintains control as in a sighted match. Although there is no obligation in a sighted event many tournament directors and referees are using these or similar modifications when dealing with VI athletes when competing directly with a sighted opponent.

B1, B2, and B3 all competed together. Sometimes the referee will weight infractions based on the eye class. If a B3 who should be able to see the red steps out he/she might receive a penalty.

There are additional changes for those athletes that are blind and deaf. I would suggest you go to the IBSA website and download the rules and any changes that have been put into place.

The success of judo is in every person’s hands. Since blind judo is fairly new, we need to educate and build it but it will be rewarding for all. We cannot do this without the help of everyone.

We need more athletes, dojos and coaches. If you have a question please call:
Walter Dean
3016 Azahar Court, La Costa, CA 92009
Tel: 760-944-9486
Fax: 760-944-8268
Email: wdean9d@sbcglobal.net

Walter Dean’s Bio
Walter Dean started his martial arts career over 55 years ago and holds a 9th degree black belt in Judo and a 6th degree black belt in Jujitsu. He is internationally recognized for his work coaching athletes for the Paralympics and other world events. Dean is considered an expert at teaching martial arts to blind students and teaching other coaches these methods.
Judo Takes the Fight on Childhood Cancer

St. Baldrick’s Foundation is a childhood cancer charity funding research to help find cure for children with cancer. The Foundation raises money for childhood cancer research primarily through head-shaving events. Volunteers sponsored by family, friends and employers, shave their heads in solidarity with children who typically lose their hair during cancer treatment. Events have taken place in all 50 US states and 28 countries. Since 2000, St. Baldrick’s Foundation volunteers have organized nearly 4,200 head-shaving events and shaved over 190,500 heads, raising over $118 million for the life-saving childhood cancer research.

Matt Flores, a sixteen year old Junior Brown and Chris Collins, a Nidan from North Raleigh Judo in Raleigh, NC volunteered in this year’s event. Supported by their Dojo and students’ parents they both managed to raise money for this great cause. Sensei Collins states, “I can’t imagine a child having to fight off Cancer, to me it is unthinkable. We fight in a Judo match for up to four and a half minutes, these kids fight every second of the day for their lives. It is an honor and a great privilege to take part in such an event. I lost my father to cancer and I could never imagine what it feels to lose a child to it.”

What I would hope is that more people would volunteer for this event through our Judo community. We took the fight on the mat and we took it on against childhood cancer. If we had the support of all the Judoka in the country through volunteers to raise money or through donations, we could make a big difference in the fight.

Christopher Collins’ Bio

Chris Collins is the assistant Instructor at North Raleigh Judo in Raleigh, North Carolina. He was with the US Marine for twelve years where he explored various arts and found his calling in Judo.

He pushes students to explore all sides of Judo from Randori to Kata. He is currently employed as a Senior Satellite Uplink for MicrospaceCommunications in Raleigh, NC.

Sensei Collins holds the title of Nidan.
On April 22, 2014 I visited the Martial Arts Academy of Billings. Their areas of expertise include Judo, Taekwondo, Hapkido, and Self Defense.

In the past several years, my Husband Bill and I have spent our winters in Red Lodge, Montana, and I was a weekly “Guest instructor” at MAAB.

This year, we had planned our time in Anaconda, Montana to be closer to the many Ski Resorts on the west side of Montana. I lost my Bill on January 29, 2014, but I did return to Montana to share Bill with the mountains. Along the way, I visited another dojo and my last stop was here at MAAB to renew old friendships and make new friends.

They have kid’s classes at 5:30 and 6:30, and then the adults meet at 7:30 p.m. We spent considerable time on Uchikomi, correct positioning, Newaza fun and games. My hope is that next year I can return more often to this Dojo as they have the true Spirit of Judo. It is also a possibility that we can put together a FLAG Camp this summer in Billings.

I apologize in advance for some of the blurred PICS. I need to remember to put my SLR on Action when catching Judo in motion.

When you travel, Play Judo. When you travel to Montana stop in at the Martial Arts Academy of Billings located at 528 Lake Elmo Dr., Billings, MT 59105. It would be good to give them a call before hand at 406-591-9000.

Deborah L. Fergus’ Bio

Deborah L. Fergus has practiced Judo for 44 years. She is a Yodan, a USJA BOD member, a National Referee, National Coach, a Certified Rank Examiner and Technical Official, a Competitor, and host of “Fight Like A Girl Camps” and the “All Women’s Championships”. She is a member of Southside Dojo in Portage, MI.
Celita Schutz East Coast Championships, Staten Island, NY – Register Now!

**The Celita Schutz East Coast Championships** will be held on June 8, 2014, at Monsignor Farrell High School in Staten Island. The Tournament will be co-hosted by 3X Olympian Celita Schutz of Kokushikai Judo Academy of Fair Lawn, NJ, and Dave Goodwin of Bushido Dojo of Staten Island. Technical Advisor to the tournament is 8th dan, Yoichiro Matsumura.

Commenting on the purpose and inspiration for this new tournament, Schutz explained, “The East Coast Judo Championship, held for many years in Newark, NJ, was always one of my favorite tournaments. After the 2000 Olympics in Sydney, I took a short break from competition. It was my participation in the East Coast Judo Championship in 2002 that ignited my competitive spirit for judo again. It definitely was the spark that set my sights on the 2004 Olympics in Athens.” The fire was ignited and Celita Schutz went on to take a gold medal at the US Nationals, a silver medal at the US Open before winning the Olympic Trials in San Jose, Calif., to make her third Olympic Team with Sensei Matsumura as her coach. Both now teach the fundamentals and traditions of judo at Kokushikai Judo Academy.

The Annual East Coast Judo Championships, held in Newark and organized by Yoshisada Yonezuka and the Hudson Juyukai, had their final contest in 2011 after 46 years. Last year, Schutz and Goodwin were encouraged to work together on a tournament by the United States Judo Association’s (USJA) Regional Coordinator Committee Chairman, John Paccione. The idea began to take shape after Schutz conducted a clinic at Bushido Dojo of Staten Island. Over lunch Schutz and Goodwin, head instructor and NYPD Lieutenant, agreed that junior judoka needed more opportunities to test their skills in the early summer before the USA Judo Junior Olympics. They began discussing ways to add another competitive opportunity to the tournament schedule. After coordinating with Tony Camal and his Annual Summer Slam Judo Championships on June 1st, it was decided that the Celita Schutz East Coast Championships would take place June 8th to provide back to back tournament opportunities for visiting athletes.

Since then, says Schutz, Goodwin’s drive and enthusiasm for the project have really brought this tournament together. Using his Staten Island contacts, Goodwin has secured an excellent competition facility, and has swiftly pulled together the key logistics for the tournament. Schutz has secured Charles Schweizer, PJC-C, Vice Chairman of the USJA Referee Committee, as Head Referee. “I have personally observed him at many competitions. Charlie is experienced, professional, and cool under fire” (Schweizer will be conducting a referee clinic at Kokushikai Judo Academy on May 18.) Also attending to help with the scoreboard implementation and pool sheet logistics is Mindy Buehman of Florida who has helped run successful tournaments such as the Cherry Blossom Open and the USA Cup. Schutz remarked, “It’s great to have Mindy onboard to help. Her attention to detail is awesome!”

In addition, the **Celita Schutz East Coast Championships** will get a special visit from USJA President, Gary Goltz who will not only be attending, but serving as one of the tournament National Referees. Goltz commented, “USJA is extremely supportive of Celita and Dave’s...
Growing Judo, May 2014

Tamara “Tammy” Hemingway’s Bio

Tammy has been playing judo since 2005 and received her Shodan in 2012. She became interested in the sport watching her daughters play. Late to the game, she stuck with it thanks to the encouragement of her instructors and judo buddies, and what began as a great way to stay fit and make friends has blossomed into a sincere passion for the sport and the tradition of judo.

Tammy has been an active volunteer since 2007 and has been the President of the Great Lake Judo Association. She is currently an Officer for the USJA Board of Directors and a Judge for the USJA constructing over 100 tournaments a year. She is an active coach for her two daughters, as well as a judge for the Regional and National level events. She is excited to bring her expertise in the sport and her passion to the Celita Schutz East Coast Championships.

Schutz and Goodwin are expecting that there will be plenty of player participation from the tri-state area and beyond. (Commitments from players have already been made from as far as Tennessee and Florida.) Any judoka age 5 to adult is eligible. There are 34 divisions from PeeWee and Novice, to Senior/Senior Elite and Masters. First, second and third place medals will be awarded for every division, as well as first, second and third place Overall Club trophies. The first place Overall Club trophy will be engraved and stay with the winning club for one year before returning for next year’s contending clubs. Entries must be postmarked by May 28 and received by June 2. After this date, a late entry fee will be charged. No entries will be accepted after June 6, and no walk-ups will be allowed.

Junior competitors planning to compete at the Junior Olympics are encouraged to attend the 10th Annual SummerSlam Judo Championships on June 1 at J.F. Kennedy High School in Paterson, NJ, and the Celita Schutz East Coast Championships on June 8 at Monsignor Farrell High School on Staten Island. Commenting on the launch of this competitive opportunity, USA Judo’s COO, Corinne Shigemoto stated, “USA Judo is always happy to see judo grow in the United States and is thrilled to support one of our Olympians in this effort. We support and want the Celita Schutz East Coast Championships to be a success because every success in judo is a success for the whole country.”

For entry forms and more information on the Celita Schutz East Coast Championships, please follow the link below:


See you on the mat in June!
Upcoming Events

Sensei Gary's Annual Birthday Scrimmage
This Annual event is a great deal of fun while also learning to improve your skills. Come and join us for a great time and learning experience.

Event Type: Camp/Competition  
Start Time: 06/14/2014  8:00 AM  
End Time: 06/14/2014  6:00 PM  
Competition: Junior, Senior  
Level D Local: Regional  
Sanction(s): 14-003

Camp/Clinic
If you are looking for the Competitive Edge come join us at The Greatest Camp on Earth. This annual event helps you learn and improve your skills from a variety of Instructors.

Event Type: Camp/Clinic  
Start Time: 06/19/2014  9:00 AM  
End Time: 06/21/2014  8:00 PM  
Competition:  
Level D Local: Regional  
Sanction(s): 13-078

14th Annual Dr. Z Memorial
This Annual Event speaks to the memory of a great man and his devotion to the sport of Judo. Be sure to join us for this Annual Celebration of Dr. Z.

Event Type: Camp/Competition  
Start Time: 10/11/2014  8:00 AM  
End Time: 10/11/2014  5:00 PM  
Competition: Junior, Senior  
Level D Local: Regional  
Sanction(s): 14-004
From our friends at

Two Brothers Will Dedicate Their Summer Bringing Visibility To The Blind By Bicycling From Prudhoe Bay, Alaska To The San Francisco Bay

During the Summer of 2012, two teenage brothers bicycled over 3,800 miles from NYC to San Francisco crossing 13 States over a 77 day period, sleeping in self-made campsites, talking to people they met about the Blind Judo Foundation. The summer of 2014 they will bicycle from Prudhoe Bay, Alaska to San Francisco Bay furthering their goal of encouraging blind individuals and our returning blind military men and women to the empowerment sport of Judo and the positive affect it has on their lives.

The amazing Kabai Family of the SF Bay Area is no stranger to setting audacious goals benefiting others like the work and mission of the Blind Judo Foundation. This loving family of six are all Judo (Judoka) athletes. They’ve learned and practice the tenets of Judo incorporating those values into their daily family, personal, social and community lives.

During the summer of 2012 Peter and Janos Kabai biked 3869 miles from NYC to San Francisco. It took them through 13 States over 77 days meeting interesting people along the way. Besides the challenge of riding bicycles across America without any outside support, was secondary to their vision of shedding light on the work of a nonprofit organization empowering the lives of the blind and visually impaired through the sport of Judo.

With the knowledge in training and practicing the sport of Judo, one could not imagine the blind and visually impaired individuals attempting this sport assumed exclusively for the sighted. They knew the difference having started their Judo career under the legendary Coach Willy Cahill of Cahill’s Judo Academy in San Bruno (SF Bay Area), CA and his training of the blind in Judo.

The iconic Coach Cahill was the former US Olympic and US Paralympic Judo Coach. Coach Cahill, Co-Founder of the Blind Judo Foundation was the first Olympic/Paralympic Judo Coach of the 2000 US Paralympic Judo Team to win Gold for America at the Paralympic Games in Sydney, Australia.
The infectious love of Judo among the blind and visually impaired is what has driven the Kabai Brothers to dedicate the summer of 2014 to raise awareness, sponsors and funding to support needy and worthy blind athletes to attend Judo camps, tournaments and travel domestically and internationally gaining experience. Some of those blind athletes are already training in hopes of becoming candidates for the 2016 US Paralympic Judo Team that will represent the USA in Rio de Janeiro.

The Blind Judo Foundation is a nonprofit 501(c) (3) organization whose mission is to empower the blind and visually impaired using the tools and tenets of Judo. The Funding of blind and visually impaired athletes to train, travel domestically and internationally is through tax exempt donations, their financial life-line. Your generous Donations are tax exempt. To learn more about the Foundation, check out blindjudofoundation.org and at Facebook or contact Ron C. Peck at roncpeck@blindjudofoundation.org or 1-425-444-8256.
The vision of USJF is to have JUDO in every American community and school.

Is there, then, any principle which never fails of application? Yes, there is! And that is the principle of the Maximum Efficiency in Use of Mind and Body. Nonresistance is only one instance of the application of this more fundamental principle. .... On this principle of the Maximum Efficiency in Use of Mind and Body the whole fabric of the art and science of Judo is constructed.

Jigoro Kano

Our mission is to serve and support our members in the American judo community while upholding the principles of mutual welfare and benefit.

visit www.usjf.com
Congratulations to the following individuals on their achievements:

Shodan
- Jamillah K. Ahmad
- Alexandra N. Dean
- Jean P. Gufrinck
- Eric G. Scott
- Matthew S. Tucker

Nidan
- David L. Campbell
- Mark Tamulionis

Sandan
- Sean P. Racki
- Robert Sotomayor

Yodan
- Kerri A. Loduha
- Robert S. Loduha
- Derick U. Wellman

Current USJA Membership Statistics:

- Active Annuals: 6,685
- Active LM's: 1,381
- Total Active USJA Members: 8,066
The essence of Dr. Jigoro Kano’s judo of maximum efficiency with minimum effort comes from his discovery of kuzushi. He relates the following:

“Usually it had been him that threw me. Now, instead of being thrown, I was throwing him with increasing regularity. I could do this despite the fact that he was of the Kito-ryu school and was especially adept at throwing techniques. This apparently surprised him, and he was quite upset over it for quite a while. What I had done was quite unusual. But it was the result of my study of how to break the posture of the opponent. It was true that I had been studying the problem for quite some time, together with that of reading the opponent’s motion. But it was here that I first tried to apply thoroughly the principle of breaking the opponent’s posture before moving in for the throw.”

Considering the importance placed on kuzushi, you would think all judo instructors agree on what kuzushi is and how it is applied. However, that is not true. Phil Porter, when he was USJA President, said in one of his videos, “There is no such thing as kuzushi; just grip low, set high.” Years later had I heard that Virgil Bowles, Professor of Judo, had made a similar comment. Virgil said it was just tsukuri, so I asked him about it at the Greatest Camp on Earth. He explained that kuzushi is not what people think it is. He then asked a high dan friend, “What do think kuzushi is?”

Sensei Bowles’s friend extended his arms with a bending motion signifying the traditional lifting that most would recognize as kuzushi. I could tell from his eyes that Sensei was disappointed and felt alone knowing an important truth. I let the subject die but knew that Sensei understood something I didn’t.

Years later when I studied New School Judo, I could see a different kuzushi-tsukuri relationship. New School involves teaching judo through the study of biomechanics, not just demonstrating throws. New School is a Japanese term representing the result of biomechanical studies of athletes in the All-Japan Championships, by Matsumoto in 1972, and a Kodokan study in 1979. It was about mechanical advantage, separating weak action from strong, and shortening steps. It was seen as restoring judo to its original understanding of leverage and superior interactions, emphasizing tori’s actions to defeat uke’s defenses.

To comprehend New School, we must consider an earlier understanding of tsukuri. The original 1955 edition of Kodokan Judo explains, “To destroy your opponent's posture or balance, so as to make your attack easier while holding yourself ready at the same time to attack him, is called tsukuri.”

Geoff Gleeson describes tsukuri in his Anatomy of Judo as, “The action done by tori to make uke move into the direction of the throw. It can be done many ways using body weight, hand action, using uke’s (uncontrolled) body-weight. It can extend over varying periods of time -- as much as two paces before the attacking movement starts, to a split second before the attacking movement starts.” Gleeson describes kuzushi as “the loss of control by uke as a direct result of tsukuri.”

New School combines kuzushi and tsukuri as one simultaneous action. Uke is controlled by kuzushi, while tori uses tai-sabaki to position himself along uke’s weak lines. Tori has now locked uke into a position from which tori can throw him. This is called tsukuri.

The noun kuzushi comes from the transitive verb kuzusu, meaning to level, pull down, destroy, or demolish. Thus it does not refer exclusively to unbalancing. Tori pulls uke’s head down over his toes to lock uke in place as tori moves into an attack stance. Uke, in a weakened state, cannot move out of the attack. The action can be caused by tori’s direct action using biomechanics or by indirect action when uke presents tori with an opportunity. In those situations, kuzushi sometimes is not needed. Indirect action occurs when tori uses speed, timing, and false attack to misdirect uke’s defenses. When direct action occurs to break uke’s posture -- kuzushi through
biomechanics -- it must be simultaneously locked up, else nothing is accomplished. Therefore when kuzushi occurs, tsukuri -- the locking action -- must also occur.

A modern misconception concerning kuzushi is that it is the pulling action of a throw and that the locking action, similar to securing uke's arm in your bicep during seoinage, is tsukuri. The truth is kuzushi-tsukuri occurs before the throw even begins. Raising uke to his toes is not kuzushi, but tsurite, or lifting hand. It is part of kake, the action of throwing. Tsurite – lifting -- is a push, not a pull. The biomechanical action of tori inserting his hips under his elbows, plus the twist of tori's hips, lifts uke.

If this sounds different from how you do judo, it probably is. When I learned New School with several other sandan, it was very different. I learned from Dell Diaz, who came from the Olympic training center in Cuba. I tested New School at an Olympic training center in Europe, where I witnessed the same judo I had previously been taught, what the Japanese refer to as Old School. In comparison, New School is basically effortless compared to Old School's strength required to overcome a skillful opponent.

Because I am very small and light, I probably am the best person to prove that. I fought at 55 kg. at age 63. Today at 72, I train with an elite athlete aspiring to make the Olympic team. My judo is powerful -- not from physical strength but from principles discovered by Jigoro Kano. I will teach the effectiveness of New School judo at the Greatest Camp in Matthews, North Carolina, in June.
Kenji Yamada (March 11, 1924 – April 10, 2014)

by Harold Yamada, Mercer Island Judo Dojo, Bellevue Judo Club, Yamada Dojo, UF Continental Judo Referee, Vice President Washington State Judo, Inc. on Friday, April 11th, 2014

My father Kenji Yamada, Hachidan passed away very peacefully surrounded by his family. We lost a father, grandfather, pioneer in judo and sensei who had touched so many lives and in judo.

Kenji Yamada, Seattle and Bellevue Judo Dojo, Hachidan, born in Sunnyside, UT, started judo in 1937 at Fukushima High School, Fukushima, Japan. In post-war judo, the 1953 Seattle Judo Team consisted of Kenji Yamada, Fred Sato, Chris Kato, and George Wilson with Sam Furuta as the coach. The Seattle team placed first in the first post-war national Judo tournament that year. He was a US National Judo Champion 1954, 1955, 1956. He travelled on the 1955 US Goodwill Team. In 1990 he was the Deputy Commissioner and Judo Competition Director of International Goodwill games in Seattle, WA. Since 1946 he continued to teach Judo at Seattle Dojo until his retirement in 2006 in which his son Alan, sandan, runs today. In 1957 he founded the Bellevue Judo Dojo from which he retired in 2005, in which his son Harold, yodan, runs today.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Haruko in 1991. He is survived by his nine children Bea (Ken) Saito; Eileen (Robert) Iguchi; Patsy (Dennis) Yamada; Joyce (Peter) Tsai; Alan Yamada; Teresa Yamada; Harold (Cathy) Yamada; Michael (Candy) Yamada; Kathy Cummins; grandchildren; Aaron (Meaghan) Saito; Stacey Saito; Stephanie Saito; Megan Iguchi; Allison Iguchi; Tyler Iguchi; Ryan Yamada; Jana Yamada; Evan Yamada; Melyssa Tsai; Whitney Tsai; Julianne Yamada; Jessica Yamada; Kyle Cummins; Dylan Cummins; great-grand child Kiran Saito.

Services will be announced at a later date.

A donation in his memory can be sent to;

Seattle Judo Dojo
Bellevue Judo Dojo
C/O Mercer Island Dojo 501(c)(3)
PO BOX 1084
Mercer Island, WA 98040

Richard Muller

On April 21st, 2014, the USJF announced the passing of Richard Muller a Sensei from the Pacific Northwest who also served as their legal counsel. I will miss Richard who had become a voice of reason on our monthly Grassroots Judo alliance calls. He once said a good compromise is when both parties go away unhappy. It was this no nonsense approach coupled with his wisdom that we really miss.
Disclaimer

Please note that all material contained on this magazine is provided for informational purposes only. Martial Arts training is a potentially dangerous activity. Before beginning any Martial Arts training or exercise program, you should consult your physician. Bumps, bruises, scrapes, scratches and soreness are commonplace, and most students will encounter this sort of minor injury from time to time in their training. More serious injuries are possible, including sprains, strains, twists, cramps, and injuries of similar magnitude, and students can expect to encounter these injuries infrequently. The possibility of more serious injury exists, including fractured bones, broken bones, and torn ligaments, though not all students encounter such serious injuries. As with any physical activity, there also exists the remote possibility of crippling or death.

You should always be aware that if you engage in any Martial Arts course you are doing so entirely at your own risk (as described in the Doctrine of Assumed Risk and Liability), including any present and/or future physical or psychological pain or injury that you may incur. The United States Judo Association (hereafter called the USJA), the editor of Growing Judo magazine, the article writers and contributors contained therein cannot assume any responsibility or liability for any injuries or losses that you may incur as a result of acting upon any information provided by this magazine or any links to sites found herein. Nor can the USJA, the editor of Growing Judo magazine, the article writers and contributors assume any third party liability arising out of any legal actions you may be involved in as a result of the training you received by engaging in a study of any Martial Art as presented by this magazine or any other source cited herein either directly, or through the use of hyperlinks. Although there may be a number of instructors, dojo, other organizations, seminars and other activities listed in this magazine, the USJA, its officers, the editor of Growing Judo magazine, the article writers and contributors cannot be responsible for their claims, instructional strategies, materials, facilities, or consequences that may arise by studying any Martial Art under their supervision and can make no recommendations or inferences as to the quality or effectiveness of their instructional programs.
United States Judo Association Automatic Donation Plan

When I was a teenager, judo helped keep me out of trouble. As an adult, judo allows me to pass on my experiences so that other kids have the ability to stay out of trouble. I love judo because I can get on the mat, rumble around and feel good about life. Since 1993, I’ve been a thousand dollar a year donor to the USJA. I am not a rich man but I make sure my budget includes my annual donation to the USJA.

Instead of one annual contribution to the United States Judo Association, I make an automatic monthly donation. Every month, one hundred dollars is charged to my credit card and sent to the USJA. It’s automatic, so I won’t have to think about it and the USJA can count on it being there.

Please join me in making a monthly contribution to the USJA. I challenge every black belt to give one hundred dollars a month; brown belts to give fifty to seventy five dollars a month; green, orange, yellow and white belts to give twenty five dollars a month. If you can give more, great; if you cannot afford the challenge please give what you can, thanks.

Andrew Connelly, USJA Coach of the Year 2010, School of Hard Knocks (TX-019), Spring, Texas

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I authorize the United States Judo Association to initiate a monthly activity authorizing the bank to debit, or credit card company to charge, the above listed account. This authorization shall remain in effect until the United States Judo Association has received, in writing, notice from me revoking this authorization.

Monthly donation: $ ____________ - ________ (figure amount) (print amount)

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Mail or Fax completed form to USJA:
P.O. Box 1880 Tarpon Springs, FL 34688-1880
Phone: (877) 411-3409 Fax: (888) 276-3432
The USJA offers advertising space in its current and future on-line magazine(s). All advertising copy, including artwork, must be submitted to the Editor(s) at least 30 days in advance of the schedule publication date.

Advertising copy and artwork must be submitted in MS Word format and will be converted to Adobe Acrobat PDF by the editorial staff of the publication prior to publication.

All advertising must be approved by the Editor prior to insertion. The Editor has the right to reject any advertisement that is questionable in either fact or format.

All advertisers are legally bound by the USJA’s rules regarding indemnification, duty or cooperation and limitations of liability.

Monthly advertising rates are as follow:

- Full Page (color or b/w) $100.00
- Half Page (color or b/w) $55.00
- Quarter Page (color or b/w) $30.00

Ad location within the publication will be at the sole discretion of the Editor and the editor and editorial staff.

Contiguous multi-month advertising discounts are as follow for the same ad sizes:

- 3 month continuous insertion discount 5%
- Six month continuous insertion discount 10%
- One year (12 calendar continuous months) 15%

Payment for advertising must be made directly to the National Office at PO Box 1880, Tarpon Springs, FL 34688-1880 and to the attention of Ms. Katrina Davis, Executive Director. Payments must be submitted along with the advertising copy 30 days prior to the desired publication date along with this signed agreement. The Executive Director will sign, date and return a copy of the agreement to the advertiser.

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This agreement shall remain in place until either party to the agreement terminates it. Written or electronic notice of the termination shall be sent to upon the decision of either party to terminate this agreement.

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Dated: ____________________________  USJA: ________________________________

Signature: ____________________________
Beginning in March 2014, we will be accepting commercial advertising in Growing Judo magazine. We are offering full, half and quarter-page ads for $100/$55/$30 respectively. Multiple issue discounts are also available.

If you are interested in advertising your product, please contact USJA Executive Director Katrina Davis at 877-411-3409 or katrina.davis@us-ja-judo.org.

**CONCISE, well-written and proofread.**
Contain correct details (like dates and contact information) and include hyperlinks to event forms.
In WORD format (not PDF!) or in the body of the email. Photos can also be sent as separate attachments.

Your original work, or includes the expressed permission of the creator.
If possible, includes a few quality, interesting photos; be sure that you have permission to submit photos of others, ESPECIALLY minors.
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Contiguous multi-issue advertising discounts are as follows for the same-size ad:

- 3 consecutive issues 5% discount
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