



Shufu Judo Yudanshakai

Shufu Shimbun

April 2023



Upcoming Events:

1 April	Pedro's Challenge	Danvers, MA
1-2 April	NCJA Collegiate and High School National Championships	San Jose, CA
14 April	SmoothComp Judo Software demonstration	Wayne, NJ
16 April	Garden State Judo Classic	Wayne, NJ
20-21 May	USA Judo Senior National Championships	Spokane, Washington
16-18 June	USA Judo Junior Olympic Championships	Shreveport, LA
22-24 June	Greatest Camp on Earth	Monroe, NC



2023 USJF/USJA Summer Nationals, July 7th - 9th, 2023

Hosted by: Hudson Yudanshakai in Staten Island, New York City.
shiai and kata

[2023 USJF Jr. Nationals | United States Judo Federation](#)



Save the Date – August 26, 2023 - Virginia State Championships – more information to follow – Contact will be Michael Landstreet. We will need to have mat crews, referee, technical officials and tournament officials

Are you a member of Shufu Judo Yudanshakai? Has your membership lapsed. Please check your membership status. Encourage others in your judo community to join as members. You can also do dual membership with your USA Judo membership. Please stay current with your membership. If you are a life member, you still have to submit a new waiver every year to stay current. Is your club a member of Shufu Judo Yudanshakai? Register your club with us.

Shufu Judo Yudanshakai held a promotion at Toshi Budokai on March 25 in Boston Massachusetts. Thank you to Shufu Board of Examiners who were present – Miki Takemori, Pam Hinkle, John Floyd and Bob Champy. This was a hybrid event with the following board members observing over zoom: Kevin Tamai (Chairman of the Board), Rachel Friedrich, Brian Greene, Greg Gobel, Dr. Charles Medani



Congratulations to the following judoka:

Marcus Ryan from Blue Dragon Judo promoted from Sankyu to Nikyu
Christopher Channel from Toshi Budokai – promoted from Nikyu to Ikkyu
Douglas Greenwald from Blue Dragon Judo – promoted from Nikyu to Ikkyu

Powell Dixon from Shodokan from Ikkyu to Shodan
Wendy Pietroniro from Shinzan from Shodan to Nidan
Jason Pietroniro from Shinzan from Nidan to Sandan



Shufu Judo Yudanshakai 2023 James Takemori Judo Clinic Series

Shufu Judo Yudanshakai held the 2023 James Takemori clinic series on Saturday, March 11, 2023 at the Beltsville Community Center in Beltsville, Maryland. This series of clinics is named in honor of Jimmy Takemori. This years clinic featured Kevin Asano, a 1988 silver medal Olympian and former president of the United States Judo Federation.

Sensei Roy Nanjo from Yama Arashi/ VillaNova Judo, who is on the Takemori clinic subcommittee for Shufu Yudanshakai, stated "I had asked Jimmy who Shufu should have for a clinician? He said "Kevin Asano." We had planned for him to come for many years, but covid changed our plans for the last few years. We were all set for October of 2022 for the Asano clinic but Covid again changed our plans. We are very happy and excited to have Asano sensei here to share his techniques, judo knowledge, experience and life experiences with us. I am certain that every judoka here will leave with a richer understanding and appreciation of judo."

The Beltsville Community Center venue in Beltsville Maryland offered a spacious gym with two competition size mat areas. It is the home dojo for Hui-O-Judo, whose head sensei is Kevin Tamai. The venue is owned and operated by the Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission (MNCPPC)

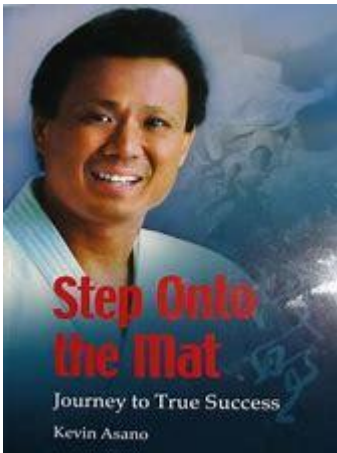
Participating at the 2023 Shufu Yudanshakai Takemori clinic series were judo clubs from the regional area including Maryland, Virginia, Washington DC and Pennsylvania. Attending clubs included: 50/50 Martial Arts VA), Arlington (VA), Baltimore (MD), Budokan (MD), College Park (MD, The Compound (MD), DC Judo (WDC), High Noon Marital Arts (VA), Kogaion Martial Arts Academy (VA), (National Institute Of Health Judo club (MD), Hui-O-Judo Beltsville (MD), Maryland Judo Team (MD), The Mount, Sport Judo (VA), Trident Martial Arts (VA), Washington Judo Club (WDC), U.S. Naval Academy (MD), Yama Arashi/Villa Nova University Judo (PA)

The clinician, **Kevin Yoshimi Asano** (born April 20, 1963), who won the silver medal in the men's extra-lightweight competition at the 1988 Summer Olympics. On his way to capturing the medal he beat Shinji Hosokawa, who was the reigning world champion and 1984 Gold Medalist. Asano came close to winning the gold medal, but lost it on a one-point penalty to Kim Jae-Yup of South Korea.

Among his many competitive judo accomplishments, some of his highlights were, Asano won a gold medal at the 1985 US Olympic Festival, a gold medal at 1986 Collegiate Championships, gold medal at the 1987 Collegiate Championships, gold medal at the 1987 US International Championships in Colorado Springs, Silver medal at the 1987 Pan American Championships in Indianapolis, Bronze



medal at the 1987 World Championships in East Germany, Silver medal at the 1988 Olympics in Seoul Korea,



Asano was born in Hawaii. He graduated from Pearl City High School in Hawaii. in 1981, studied Japanese and trained in judo at Tokai University. for two years, then went on to study at San Jose State University where he graduated in 1989 in accounting. In 2008, Kevin Asano's autobiography, *Step Onto the Mat: Journey to True Success*, was published by White Mountain Castle Publishing LLC. He co-founded Pacific Rim Legacy Group, a financial planning organization and pttivision, a 501(c)3 organization.

He has served as President of Hawaii Judo, Inc., the state judo governing body of USA Judo and President of the United States Judo Federation., a grassroots national judo organization. He is also the head instructor of Leeward Judo Club in Hawaii. USA Judo announced Kevin Asano among its inaugural Hall of Fame inductees in 2008 along with Eddie Liddie, Mike Swain and Jimmy Pedro. He is also a member of the Hawaii Sports Hall of Fame 2000 inductees and is also a member of

the San Jose State University Sports Hall of Fame. In 1988, Asano was named the US Olympic Committee's US Judo Athlete of the Year.

Asano's personal mission statement is to empower other to discover their purpose in life and to pursue it with all of their hearts. The various platforms in his life help to share the message that every individual can live a life with purpose and achieve true success. Together with his business partner Del Fujinaka they founded Personal Transformation International which is a 501(c)3 charitable organization. Together they empower people in the areas of health, finances, and relationships. When Kevin is not working he spends his time playing with his children, napping, reading, and playing music.



Kevin Asano offered an open mat ninety minute intense workout on Friday night at the Compound in Silver Spring. Thank you to Gerard Cadet and Brian Lopez for making this workout happen. It was attended by about 25 judoka. It was a really good workout.



On Saturday morning, Asano sensei led the clinic at Beltsville. It was a mix of twenty five judoka from young junior Rokkyu's to Shichidans. Sensei Brian Lopez from Hui-O-Judo lead the class in taiso warm ups and Ukemi drills. Asano sensei then led a series of drills up and down the mat with each one building upon the previous one. Asano sensei was able to speak and connect with each

one of the judoka. He showed the beauty and effortlessness of judo. He spoke about the concept of “Go No Sen”, being able to feel your partner or opponent coming in for a technique. Go no sen is a strategy, one of the three basic strategies, which can be loosely translated as ‘counter technique’. Kano recognized three levels of combative initiative (sen): 1) go no sen, the ‘late’ form of attack initiative, usually characterized as a defensive move or counteraction; 2) sen, the attack initiative that is also defensive but launched simultaneously with the aggressor’s attack; 3) sen-sen no sen, a supraliminal attack initiative, also defensive but appearing to be offensive, through which the aggressor’s attack is anticipated and “beaten to the punch” by an appropriate action. Asano sensei demonstrated and taught series of different techniques moving in multiple directions. He taught a wonderful blend of techniques that everyone enjoyed. Some included and Osoto/Osoto, kosoto/ seionage, uchimata/taiotoshi and many others. He ended the session speaking to everyone about the path of his life. While going to the Olympics was a dream come true, it is character that counts the most, not wins or losses. Losses teach us valuable lessons in life. We must continue to get and keep improving ourselves. Being a champion in life means making the world better. Asano sensei encouraged each judoka to pursue their dreams and set new goals every day. He shared parts of his Olympic experience. He shared very personal parts of his life.



Saturday afternoon we had about 56 judoka attend the session. Sensei Brian Lopez from Hui-O-Judo lead the group in taiso exercises and zempo kaiten. Asano took a poll of the judoka – who would do judo 7 days a weeks if money, time and outside commitments were not in the equation? More that half said they would. Asano called them “Judo Otaku”. It has a meaning of house or one who is crazy/obsessed about judo that they never leave. Sensei Asano demonstrated the gentleness of judo techniques. Asano spoke about building a solid judo foundation. Much like a building judoka must have a solid foundation of basics. Having good core judo balance and techniques is critical. All judoka performed a series of exercises down the mat building upon each previous one. Sensei Asano focused the clinic on a series of variations for tomoe nage, including his famous yoko tomoe nage. He demonstrated how to throw in multiple directions and facing different grips. Asano sensei emphasized the importance of continual learning and development. He was pleased to see so may adult judoka eager to learn. He ended the day with very personal reflections on his own personal life and journey. He shared with us three main very low points in his life that he felt at the bottom end of his rope. However, those moments lead to some of the best times of his life as well.

After the clinic 25 judoka enjoy some fellowship time at the Mandarin Delight restaurant in Beltsville. Judo is so much more than what happens on the mat. It is about building relationships, as well as personal growth and development. We enjoy supporting small local community businesses.



Miki Takemori, oldest daughter of Jimmy and current President of Shufu Judo Yudanshakai, stated “I want to thank Kevin Asano for being the clinician for the 2023 Jimmy Takemori Clinic. It was wonderful to see all of the judoka eager to learn from this Olympic Silver medalist. I would like to give special thanks to Kevin Tamai and his club members from Hui-O-Judo and to the Beltsville Community Center. Last but not least I wish to thank Rena Asano for being her fathers uke the entire day. She was really amazing!”

Kevin Tamai, Shufu Yudanshakai Chairman of the Board of Examiners and the event director for his clinic, stated “Shufu Yudanshakai has always placed the growth and development of its judoka as its highest priority. We host a variety of clinics on various topics throughout the year to help with the development of each of our judoka on

many different levels. Judo is about jita kyoei (mutual welfare and benefit). It is our share our love of judo with others.”

Mark Dantzler, head sensei of the Maryland Judo Team, stated “It as a beautiful work out and clinic on the mats with Olympic Silver medalist Kevin Asano. Kevin traveled Maryland with his oldest of five children, Rena. She assisted in the morning and sessions as his uke. Rena shared with me that her dad does not leave home to teach This was a really special appearance for all of this in attendance. It is also wonderful to and new judo friends gathered together to learn from Asano sensei.”

Greg Gobel, from the U.S. Naval Academy Judo club, stated “Kevin Asano was a great knowledgeable about competitive judo. He has a marvelous empathetic teaching style well with children as with adults. The clinic was very well run and organized by Kevin for every event) with a diverse cross section of judo backgrounds and ability levels. Asano sensei was able to connect with each judoka equally. He was assisted by his eldest daughter, Rena, who served as his uke and co-instructor. She was a tremendous example for all.”

Brad Lewis, from National Institute of Health Judo Club and the Maryland Judo Team and is on the Shufu Communications subcommittee, stated “It is such a wonderful feeling to be back on the mat with so many judoka. They are all part of my family. I get so energized and rejuvenation in life when I am around them. I am so thankful for the support of all of the judoka in my life.”

James Takemori was a key part of Shufu Judo Yudanshakai since it was founded in 1953. Sensei Jimmy was an incredibly competitive judoka in his early days and was instrumental in the growth of judo in the US. As his competitive time came to an end, he became an international referee while continuing to lead Washington Judo club and Shufu Judo Yudanshakai for over 60 years. Jimmy first began practicing judo in 1937 in Fresno, California, and was an instructor in the D.C. area for over 60 years. He has coached both the men’s and women’s U.S. national teams. He passed away at 89 years old and held a ninth degree black belt. The next generation of Takemoris were all skilled judoka on the junior and senior level. Sensei Miki and Sensei Teri continue the tradition of developing Junior and Senior elite judokas. We thank all the Takemori family members for their outstanding devotion and service to judo.



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We continue to grow and develop judo in the area. Shufu Yudanshakai is strong because of its members and leaders. Shufu Yudanshakai was formed in 1953 under the Amateur Athletic Union, later under the Judo Black Belts Association, then under the current United States Judo Federation. Shufu was responsible for the eastern side of the United States. Shufu Yudanshakai has outstanding local, regional, national and international leaders in all phases of our sport. To name them and all of their accomplishments would fill many volumes on each one. Their philosophy is plain: to strengthen and improve judo from the local through the international levels by the unswerving

devotion to and promulgation of Dr Jigoro Kano’s Rules and Philosophy. The rules, as simple as they may appear on the surface to the casual practitioner of the sport, encompass all that Jigoro Kano envisioned when he propounded his findings of “Maximum efficiency with minimum effort and mutual welfare and benefit”

Shufu Yudanshakai provides events throughout the year for its members and is open to all members of the USJF, USJA and USA Judo members. We provide teacher clinics, clinics on various katas, referee clinics, two promotional events, kata competitions and four tournaments. In addition there are 8 other local tournaments run throughout the year by local Shufu Clubs.

Finally we want to thank our leadership team of Shufu Judo Yudanshakai: Miki Takemori, President; Michael Landstreet, Vice President; Diane Jackson, Secretary; Gaiv Tata, Treasurer; Karen Whilden, rank registration and Kevin Tamai, Chairman of the Board of Examiners. We also thank all of our subcommittee chairpersons for all the work they do throughout the year.

Thank you to all of our judoka and families for your support of Shufu Judo Yudanshakai. Have a great day.

Kevin Tamai
Head Sensei – Hui-O-Judo Beltsville
Asano Clinic event director

Who is Jimmy Takemori and why do we have a clinic named after him?? James Takemori was a formidable competitor in the 1950's and 60's. Sensei Takemori nurtured and supported the growth of Judo in the United States till his death. He was one of the founders of the Shufu Yudanshakai, and an IJF-A referee. He was awarded the Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Rays in 2004 by the Emperor of Japan for contributions to the promotion of mutual understanding and friendship between the US and Japan. He is survived by his wife Helen, daughters Miki, Robin, Teri and Chrissy, and nine granddaughters (plus 2 great-granddaughters - LOL).

Sensei Jimmy Takemori's Story....

One of the few Judo kudans in the United States turned the auspicious age of 88 on February 3rd. He's pretty much what you'd expect from such a judo master: a lined face, sharp eyes, a sage's breadth of Judo, and tremendous respect from his fellow judoka. His small stature belies the drop-what-you're-doing-and-listen respect he's earned and his fiery spirit. It also hides a lifetime of hard work and education he's imparted upon his pupils. James Takemori began judo under a Buddhist reverend at the tender age of 11 in California. But his attitude of hard work and family was being fostered years before he bowed-in. He lived through the Great Depression and painfully witnessed his father scrounge up the survival of their family through it. "My father worked for 15 cents an hour with six children. I wondered how he ever made ends meet. It hurt me because I still wanted to take care of my own parents," he remembered.



His sense of duty to his parents was not only instilled in him by his parents, but it is a tradition of Japanese culture, Takemori says, "In a Japanese family, the oldest son is supposed to take care of their parents." Living and witnessing the struggles of being a farming family during the Great Depression wasn't the only hardship he had to endure in his youth. Despite being a natural-born U.S. citizen, he and his parents were transported and detained at one of the many Internment Camps shortly after the attack on Pearl Harbor. Japanese citizens who had nothing to do with the attack nor had allegiance to the Japanese Empire were imprisoned, essentially for simply being Japanese. Takemori and his family were one of the last groups detained. He went to the camp in Gila, Arizona. Despite being a prisoner in his own country, Takemori was drafted into the Army a year later, in 1944. He quickly moved up in the Army, becoming a "buck sergeant" before shipping off to Italy. His deployment to the Italian peninsula contained a major stroke of luck, "When I got there, it was the last day of the War in Italy. So, I was lucky."

In 1946, Takemori had to make one of the toughest decisions in his life, "The hardest thing for me was getting out of the service in 1946." He had the chance to become a First Sergeant at age 20, an unheard of promotion age, he said. "But, my parents come first," he said flatly. He resigned from a potentially prestigious military career in order to be present and care for his family. It also — perhaps by another stroke of luck — avoided fighting in the Korean War, something a few of his friends weren't able to do. Takemori returned to his life in California and continued practicing and competing in Judo. Neither the Great Depression, Japanese Internment, or even World War II threw him the biggest — and most amazing — curveball of his life: the day he needed to change his judo. In 1953, Takemori was nearly a black belt with over 10 years of experience as well as many championship wins and was told by his instructor, Kenzo Ueno, that he needed to change his "bad judo."

"He says, 'Jimmy you gotta change your judo. You're not doing good judo,'" Takemori recalls. Thereafter, he focused on utilizing technique more than his farmer's strength to throw his opponents, making hane-goshi his favorite technique, "I never liked seoinage. So I took the hane-goshi." Over the course of six months of hard training, he began to throw his opponents with an ease he never experienced before. "It was hard. I was doing 300 repetitions a day, but when I threw my opponents it felt like they were jumping for me," he said. Even now, nearly 60 years later, he is astounded, "My God..."

At around the same time Takemori met his wife in their bowling league. Apparently, the pair were the best in their division. "I didn't marry her for almost five years ... She was great, but I was no damn good. See, I was messing around with all the Chinese and Caucasian girls," he chuckled. "But when I saw she wasn't married after five years, I said, 'Oh shit!' ... I've been married now since

1956,” he said. He and his wife produced four daughters and, “they all became champions.” Fellow students of Takemori and other instructors describe them as “scary good.”

During his nearly 60 years of judo instruction, Takemori has taken his nose-to-the-grindstone approach and family-oriented mentality to his teaching and relationships with his students. No doubt his life experiences have shaped his [in]famous attitude and nearly merciless criticism of technique. While he is tough on instructor and student alike — he seems to make no distinction — one can see how much he cares about judo and his students’ development as a whole person, “Sometimes I’m too hard, but that’s the way I am.”

His toughness knows no bounds. The ladies get his swift discipline and sharp criticism as much as the men. No one escapes his sharp eye and equally sharp tongue. He focuses on the basics, sometimes making everyone from white belt to 5th degree black belt practice kuzushi or tai-sabaki for entire classes. However, no one can doubt that their judo dramatically improves from his nit-picking and the hard work. This man knows and loves his judo. “Jigoro Kano said you have to help the person come up. The idea of Judo is to be a whole person. I want to put that through everybody,” he said.



President's Address: Regarding the Recent Withdrawal by USA Judo from the American Judo Alliance Development and

Cooperation Agreement (AJADCA)

by [Mitchell Palacio](#) | Mar 15, 2023 | [News](#)



Mitchell Palacio, President

15 March 2023

To the USJF Community

Regarding the Recent Withdrawal by USA Judo from the American Judo Alliance Development and Cooperation Agreement (AJADCA)

Dear Members;

USA Judo recently announced that it was terminating their participation in the above referenced agreement. USJF leadership are disappointed by this turn of events and the refusal of USA Judo to come to the table to discuss how the agreement could have been improved for the benefit of all organizations and the American judo community. In this announcement, we would like to make clear what has happened until this point and our vision for moving forward.

How did we get Here?

In 2018, despite the obvious inequalities that existed in the agreement concerning tournament participation; the recognition of referee, kata, teacher, and coach certifications; and several other areas, the USJF agreed to enter into the agreement in the spirit of cooperation and for the potential betterment and development of judo in the U.S. Years later, however, the effects of the agreement have clearly been detrimental to the USJF in a number of ways, and the USJF

has intended to work with USA Judo (and the other participant in the agreement, the USJA) to find a better solution for all parties involved.

With that intent, the USJF formed a negotiation team to engage with USA Judo to work toward a better solution. We contacted USA Judo, who provided us with a list of benefits that have been accrued through the agreement. Upon noting that none of the benefits were received by the USJF, USA Judo took the unprecedented step of abruptly walking away from the discussions and curtailing any future negotiation, despite our attempts to schedule such meetings and despite our request to extend the 14 March 2023 expiration date on a month-by-month basis for up to six months, to which USA Judo initially signaled agreement. Then, while waiting for a response from USA Judo to our multiple meeting requests, USA Judo simply announced their intentions via their website, without the courtesy of informing us. For full transparency, the negotiation team is happy to share the entire communication exchange with any USJF member upon request.

Also important to note is that, in their recent announcement, USA Judo has also withdrawn from the “open tournament agreement” that has been in place since 1988, in which all American judoists could participate in any event sanctioned by any of the three organizations, and which was a monumental step forward for the development of judo and for cooperation among the organizations. We view their one-sided position on this extremely important agreement to close their events as toxic to the growth of judo in the country.

In sum, we view the way in which this process has unfolded, and the positions USA Judo has recently taken, as disrespectful, disingenuous, and against the intent of the original agreement and the spirit of judo. It is a slap in the face of all USJF members.

Moving Forward

Make no mistake, the USJF is poised now more than ever to have a **thriving, successful, vibrant organization that grows regularly every year and provides the best judo instruction and participation avenues in the U.S.**

To this end, and given USA Judo’s unfortunate position to close their events and to go back three-and-a-half decades, this is the position the USJF now must adopt, effective as of the date of this announcement, 15 March 2023:

- The USJF has signed an agreement with USJA that reinstates and confirms our reciprocal agreement with regard to participation in USJF or USJA sanctioned events. This means that:
- With the exception of rank promotion and examination events, USJF sanctioned events will allow both USJF and USJA members to participate; likewise, USJA sanctioned events will allow both USJF and USJA members to participate.
 1. NB: Any participation by a non-USJF or non-USJA member in a USJF sanctioned event will void the warranty requirements of our insurance policies and void all

coverages for everyone involved. Only people with USJF or USJA membership and certification may participate.

- USJF sanctioned events will recognize only USJF, USJA, and any international (e.g., PJC, IJF) certifications for referee, kata, teacher, and coaches.
 1. NB: Any participation by an individual without USJF or USJA membership and certification will void liability and accident medical coverages.
- USJF members' participant accident insurance will not cover any injuries sustained at a non-USJF or non-USJA sanctioned event, nor while participating in any activity at a non-USJF or non-USJA member judo club.

As we move forward, there will undoubtedly be other changes that the USJF will adopt in order to continue to grow judo and to protect all of our members' interests, in the spirit of the Amateur Sports Act passed by Congress over four decades ago. Throughout, we will be as transparent as possible, and will conduct ourselves with the dignity and honor that the USJF is known for as the oldest and strongest judo organization in the country.

March 10, 2023

Dear USA Judo Members,



USA Judo has been part of the American Judo Alliance Agreement with the US Judo Association (JA) and US Judo Federation (JF) for the last six years. That agreement will expire on Tuesday, March 14, 2023. Both JA and JF were notified by USA Judo last fall that we would not be able to renew the agreement as it was written due to increased athlete safety mandates required by the U.S. Center for SafeSport that needed to be addressed. Unfortunately, the three organizations have not been able to come to a renewal agreement prior to the expiration of the current agreement next Tuesday.

What does this mean for USA Judo, JA and JF Members?

- USA Judo Sanctioned events will allow ONLY USA Judo Members to compete effective March 15, 2023.
- USA Judo Members' participant accident insurance will not cover any injuries sustained at a non-USA Judo
- Sanctioned event, nor at a non-USA Judo Club.
- USA Judo will allow JA and JF Certified Coaches to coach at the 2023 Youth Nationals in Lubbock, TX March 18-19. A USA Judo Coaching Certification will be required at all future USA Judo Sanctioned events beginning on March 20, 2023.
- The U.S. Center for SafeSport Training and Certifications as well as NCSI Background Screening applications through the links found on the Sport:80 Membership Platform will be available for USA Judo Members only.

You can find a full list of changes [here](#).

Commentary:

*It's good to see that the **USJA and USJF have already agreed to continue their working relationship**. (In speaking with Mitchell Palacio, current USJF President they plan to extend this to include a joint ethics reciprocity agreement which was a key component of the AJA.)*

But the question remains, now what?

So with the AJA (American Judo Alliance Agreement) ending the demise of cooperation and collaboration between USA Judo with the Grassroots Judo™ Organizations; USJA and USJF is eminent. The consequences of this demise will be putting a new hardship on our meager judo community.

List of some of the ramifications

- Tournaments, participants, coaches, and growth of players will all be effected by the demise of this agreement. Tournament sanctions will be for only that organizations players. Those who want to participate in tournaments will have to have membership in the sanctioning organization. There will be fewer people in the tournaments reducing the pools and diversity of the players
- Many clubs have their players join the different organizations. Within a club does the insurance still apply if members belong to the different organizations? For example, a club may have players for all three organizations. Can they play against each other and be covered by the insurance. Will the club owners have to pick an organization and what about their other players who belong to the other organizations?
- The three groups had a developmental referee system. With a lack of agreement will each organization needs to develop its own referee rating system and train referees to their standards. What will happen to the current national and above referees. Will we be able to have a referee developmental system?

- Each organization has its own Coach Certification process that used to be acknowledged by each other's organization. Without an agreement will the coaches be restricted to coaching only at their organization's tournament? Will coaches have to join other organization to coach at those competition?
- Will players be covered by insurance in they have other organizational members on the mat?
- Will the clubs be able to exist and grow properly if they are aligned to only one organization?
- Judo, like other sports, have had members who have not behaved properly. The 3 organizations developed an Ethics Agreements to help root out those members who do not follow the ethics purported all 3 organizations. Will players who are not ethical being able to again flourish and continue to play the because the organizations are not communicating putting players at risk?

This demise appears to go against Kano's Judo Maxims:

- Strive for perfection of character. The agreement allowed the players to grow from the experience off all three organizations helping perfect what and how they perform.
- Mutual and welfare and benefit. The organization in the past did communicate and help the individual players, coaches, and referee grow to help the sport improve.
- Maximum efficiency with minimum effort put one's best into the effort. This is the Maxim that was most troubling for the organizations. Under the AJA each organization ran its own office duplicating many efforts. The demise of the AJA will increase their members cost by having to join more than one organization in order to attend their tournaments.



Special Invitation to ALL USA JUDO members to join USJF

In order to make an easier transition for participants, USJF is offering USA Judo members the opportunity to become members of USJF at a discounted price for a limited time. i. This membership is \$35, discounted from the regular price of \$70. Renewals on this membership will be at the normal rate. This is a regular 1-year membership. This discount is available until July 31, 2023. This discount is only available to CURRENT, ACTIVE members of USA Judo. Discount is not available for members with primary USJF membership. If you have Primary membership in USA Judo and secondary membership in USJF, you can use this discount. You will be required to provide your USA Judo Membership ID Number and expiration date.

Upcoming events:

Smoothcomp demo - Friday, April 14, 2023 two days before the 2023 Garden State Judo Classic in Wayne, NJ and before my madness starts I'm willing to do a 2+ hour session on Smoothcomp at my dojo for coaches. I've run small interclubs to hosting 450 competitors in 1 day. I'm asking all those interested in knowing about the platform to contact me if you're in. I'll go over my experience in Smoothcomp from A to Z. You'll know how to start, manage and finish your event from me directly. You can DM me or look up my contact info on my website www.northjerseyjudo.com. If we get enough interest I'll put a registration form together on Smoothcomp to get the seminar going. I put down 2 hours but no problem if we go over time. I've helped two other dojos to run interclubs on this platform. Please reach out so I can get the ball rolling on my end. Run your next interclub on your own or know how to choose a 3rdparty to help run your next interclub/big tournament!

Best, Ramon Hernandez
North Jersey Judo



Tournament Announcement: 2023 Garden State Judo Classic

When: Sunday, April 16, 2023

Where: Wayne PAL, 1 PAL Drive, Wayne, NJ

Online Registration: Open

www.gradenstatejudoclassic.com or

<https://smoothcomp.com/en/event/8971>

You can also find it on the Smoothcomp events tab. We highlight the following for this year's event.

- E Level USA Judo Point Event
- Livestream on Smoothcomp
- National Referee Testing Site

- Live Brackets Night Before
- Cash Prize Elite Black Belt Divisions
- Kata before the event
- 6 Competition areas (Raising Cap to 650)
- Oh and Bigger Medals LOL

Any questions, please don't hesitate to call or email.

Best

Ramon Hernandez

North Jersey Judo

201-206-2705

ramon@northjerseyjudo.com

www.gardenstatejudoclassic.com

Grapplers Grand Prix on Sunday June 25 at 9am at the Judokai of Fairfield

You can register here: www.grapplersgrandprix.com

2023 USJF/USJA Summer Nationals, July 7th - 9th, 2023

Hosted by: Hudson Yudanshakai in Staten Island, New York City.

shiai and kata

[2023 USJF Jr. Nationals | United States Judo Federation](http://2023USJFJr.Nationals|UnitedStatesJudoFederation)

After a brief hiatus, the 'Jim Bregman Invites You To...' series is preparing for our next round of presentations!

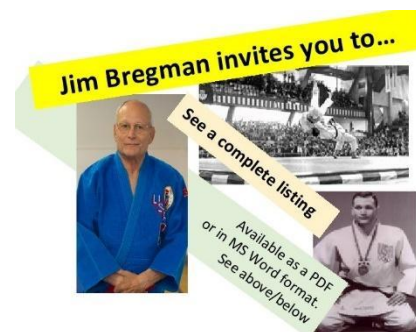
We are just finalizing plans for forthcoming presentations. We will post information about them shortly. We are currently scheduling presentations regarding the greatest camp on earth, the tour of the Jason Morris judo center, and a perspective over his judo career by Sensei Bregman. We are planning on others but do not yet have a commitment for any of those.

An overview and listing of past presentations by the 'Jim Bregman Invite You To...' program is available

at: <https://web.media.mit.edu/~reilly/BregmanUpdate.docx>

SAME DOCUMENT different format ALSO AT

<https://web.media.mit.edu/~reilly/BregmanUpdate.pdf>



2023 US Open is only 5 months away and the Head Quarters hotel is almost sold out on certain days. We expect it to be the largest US Open, with over 1500 athletes. Visit event web site USopenjudo.com and Registration is Open on

<https://usajudo.smoothcomp.com/en/event/8601>



2023 SC STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS

This regional judo tournament will focus on beginner judo players and advanced students preparing for national tournaments. National Referee Testing and Evaluation will be conducted. Participants are encouraged to stay for the kata clinic held on Sunday June 6th covering Ju no kata.

Date: June 5th, 2023

Venue: Low Country Conference Center, 406 Sigma Dr, Summerville, SC 29483

Registration Deadline: 6/2/2023 (Wednesday) Register online only. By using the Smooth Comp interface, all matches will be scheduled and run through an automated bracketing and scoring system. Coaches are encouraged to build a free academy profile. Players will also make a free profile and add their academy. American Judo foundation will be using this platform to register for future Samurai Slam tournaments, and we hope it will save us all time and improve the efficiency of our events.

Cost: \$60/division, \$20 additional divisions (Max 3 divisions) Exhibition matches available after official matches. (\$50 early registration by May 26!)

Host Hotel: Hilton Gardens Inn Group Code - AJF (\$132/night)
<http://group.hiltongardeninn.com/AmericanJudoFoundation>

Chief Referee: Roy Englert

Referee Evaluators: Gary Berliner, Hector Estevez, and Mike Takata

Schedule:

8-11AM Setup Venue (Volunteers Needed)

8-11AM National Referee Training and Testing (Magnolia/Dogwood Rm)

8-11AM Check/Weigh-ins (Outside Azalea Room)

11AM Players Meeting (No Check-Ins after 11AM)

11:30AM Opening Ceremony

12PM Competition Starts

5-7PM Awards and Takedown (approx)

Ju no Kata Seminar, Sunday June 6th (Charleston Self Defense Academy)
\$30/morning or \$50 full day



Looking ahead to some other upcoming events

7-9 July	USJF- USJA Summer Nationals	Staten Island, NY
27-30 July	US Open Judo championships	Fort Lauderdale, FL
7 Oct	Waynesville Fall Brawl	Waynesboro, NC
18 Nov	Dallas Open Judo Championships	Irving, TX
19 Nov	USA Judo Presidents Cup Championship	Irving, Texas

Congratulations to the team representing the USA at the NY Open Judo Championship winning silver.



USJF Athlete Scholar of the Year Awards:

With the USJF Board of Director's meeting set for April 13, 2023, I strongly encourage all eligible athletes to submit your completed application for Athlete Scholar of the Year (ASOY). The 2023 Athlete-Scholar of the Year Committee, on behalf of the USJF Board of Directors, is proud to invite USJF applications for scholarships of \$1,000, \$750, and \$500 to further educational opportunities at trade school, technical college, graduate school, college or university studies.

Applications can be found attached and at <http://www.usjf.com/funds/athlete-scholar-of-the-year/>

The details: • National Judo participation will be the 2022 season. • Applications due to USJF on or before April 1, 2023 (PDF via E-mail to adminmgr@usjf.com) • Academic year 2021-2022 (official transcripts required) • Complete application includes Head Instructor's Endorsement • Grade Point Average (GPA) of 3.00 minimum • Winners Announced following the Spring USJF 2023 Board of Director's Meeting. Winners Award Ceremony at the next national USJF event to follow the Board of Directors Meeting. (New York City, July 7 – 9th!) On behalf of the USJF Athlete-Scholar of the Year Committee, thank you for continuing your educational opportunities. It is a sincere desire of United States Judo Federation that you continue to open doors to opportunities to learn and grow. It is our pleasure to continue USJF financial assistance. The committee will review the applications and finalize the announcement at the USJF Board of Directors 2023 spring meeting, April 15, 2023. Congratulations on your successes and we look forward to celebrating together at the USJF national summer event in New York City in early July !



This is the core of the philosophy of judo. Do not waste! Do not waste your mental, physical and spiritual energy on things that do not accomplish your goals. In Judo we try not to waste our energy when trying to throw someone. There is a correct timing and position to executing a throwing technique. If done correctly, the technique will work with almost no strength...like a hot knife through butter. If done incorrectly, then you will find the technique difficult to accomplish and requires a tremendous amount of energy.

Consider Fully, Act Decisively! -Many times, we practice our techniques by “toe-dipping” or “testing the waters” with our techniques. This will often result in your partner applying a counter-attack to our indecisive first attack. It is better to come in with your technique whole-heartedly. If it fails...it fails and we will learn from it. But if we never attempt it, we can never be successful.

Shin Gi Tai – Literally translates into Heart, Skill, Body. One of the goals of a judo player is to develop all three of these elements and to get them to work in harmony to create a higher level of Judo.

Dr. Kano wrote:

“The Study of the application of judo ultimately led to the teaching of seiryoku zenyo, which is the principle behind competing in earnest. I have demonstrated in these pages that this principle can be applied to everyday life. With regard to our daily activities and social interaction, the teaching of seiryoku zenyo means bringing about maximum results through the use of every sort of energy. For this reason, human faults like anger, for example, violate this principle. Becoming angry consumes mental energy. How does anger benefit you or anyone else? The results of anger are invariably a depletion of mental energy and being looked down on or disliked by others. By following the principle of seiryoku zenyo, people will not be able to get angry.

Being disappointed or troubled by failures or setbacks, or harboring grievances are also ways in which mental energy is consumed. Arguments, fights -all these things are violations of seiryoku zenyo. Those who practice judo must take great care to follow this teaching. No matter what the situation, there is only one path that people must follow- in every case, the only course is to consider what is the right thing to do and proceed in that direction.

I have coined a phrase that I regularly say to people: jinsei no koro wa tada itsu aru nomi (There is only one path in life). Conducting oneself in accord with this principle on a daily basis is vitally important.

Though human beings may reach the pinnacle of success, there is only one path down which to proceed. That is to say, because complacency gives rise to the causes of failure, you must always consider things carefully until you find the most appropriate course of action and proceed that way. Even when you fail, there is only one path down which to proceed. Even if once you fail and lose heart, if you regain your courage and find your way along the highest path, circumstances will gradually improve. Because they find their own paths, those who practice judo and follow the principle of seiryoku zenyo always have a calm spirit, enjoy life, and are enterprising. The most advanced human mental life can only be achieved when people thoroughly absorb this principle.”[1]

Shinichi Oimatsu of the Kodokan describes for us the application of this principle:

...Professor Kano synthesized the three purposes of Judo and what he regarded highly was “the realization of the Way of managing human and social life.” This was especially deeply related to moral law.” That is to say,

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1) cultivation of morals, 2) refinement of mental development, and 3) application of the doctrine of the challenging spirit of Judo to everyday life. Regarding the third point in particular, what is taught at the dojo (training hall) and what is learned about Judo are not where Judo training stops but where it starts. All that is taught and learned should be made a part of one's own life as well as a part of society.

What is the Application of Seiryoku Zenyo:

- *To Be a Person of Value*

As a human being, one must set his/her goal in life and discipline his/her naturally endowed abilities. Moreover, since people "are not something that can exist apart from society" and since the fortune of today is a result of the past, everyone should develop his/her given abilities. If one contributes to society, the personality traits-even if there is a difference in achievements-can develop.

- *Determination-Judgement-Effort*

To become a person of value one should make it a purpose to believe in one's best, one should judge the steps to achieve this purpose, and once this has been done one should gather all his/her strength and work hard.

- *Seiryoku Zenyo—Application*

The momentum of determination, judgment, and effort comes from one's own strength. All the phenomena of the universe function on strength. In comparison of similar living beings those with much seiryoku will have a more magnificent life. ...[2]

"This teaching, one of the most important concepts in judo fighting, says, 'If you win, do not boast of your victory; if you lose, do not be discouraged. When it is safe, do not be careless; when it is dangerous, do not fear—simply continue down the path ahead'." [3]

Mutual Welfare and Benefit-Jita Kyoei

The second part of Dr. Kano's philosophy was the emphasis on the betterment of our society. While in the first part he emphasizes bettering yourself, he then believes one should use that new found development of self to then help others and to benefit society. In Judo classes we practice this principle as well. In the beginning, others help you get better with advice and by letting you throw them so that you can get a feel for the techniques. As you improve, perhaps they help you by giving you a tougher workout. Later as you develop your judo, you will do the same for others like give advice, take falls and give your teammates a tough workout.

Footnotes

[1]Excerpt from "Mind Over Muscle-Writings from the Founder of Judo" by Jigoro Kano and compiled by Naoki Murata, published by Kodansha International, page 84-86

[2]-Excerpt from the article "The Way of Seiryoku Zenyo-Jita Kyoei and Its Instruction" by Shinichi Oimatsu (Kodokan) published in The Bulletin for the Scientific Study of Kodokan Judo Volume VI, 1984

[3]Excerpt from "Mind Over Muscle-Writings from the Founder of Judo" by Jigoro Kano and compiled by Naoki Murata, published by Kodansha International, page 123

Diane Jackson – Shufu Kata Corner

Upcoming kata events:

- 5/21/2023 – Senior Nationals, Spokane, WA, registration is open
- 6/25/2023 (Sun) – **Katame no Kata clinic**, Sport Judo. POC: D. Jackson
- 8/2023 – Koshiki no Kata clinic with David McFall and judge evaluation, Sport Judo, POC: D. Jackson

This year's senior nationals offers NEW divisions for kata:

Intermediate: Nage, Katame, Ju, Goshin, Kime

Under 33: Nage, Katame, Ju

Open: Nage, Katame, Ju, Goshin, Kime



Objectives are to: 1) encourage newer, developing teams and 2) better align with IJF and PJC kata competition categories.

Athletes who could compete in two categories (ex: intermediate and U33), should pick one.

Black belts can compete in intermediate. Teams that have already competed for the USA, should compete in Open for that kata(s).

All-around team awards for highest placement in 3 katas: Mixed team, Female team, and Male team

WE NEED YOU!



We need you!! –Part of judo is Jita Kyoei – mutual welfare and benefit. Judo is a wonderful community of giving people who share a common interest. Each one of us has unique talents and resources that we can share. In order for judo to grow and develop we need your assistance. How can you help judo? What can you do to make a difference in your dojo or in the judo community? What do you love about judo, your club, the experience? How has judo impacted your life? Please share your thoughts, feelings, and suggestions with us.



USJF – Learning portal - Please visit the USJF for great teacher and educational resources [Teaching Resources](#) | [USJF Education Portal](#)

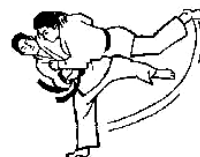
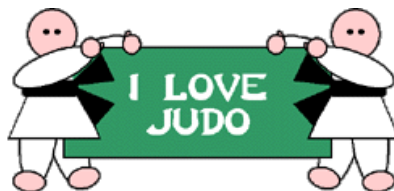
Please visit the USJF website for more great information. There is a section on contest rules and referee education [Contest Rules and Referee Education](#) | [USJF Education Portal](#)



Club Updates from Shufu Judo Yudanshakai –

- Has your dojo started back to live in-person practices? Send us a write up about your club.
- **Please Share news about your club with us. Send us news, photos, and events.**

Develop Yourself to Your Fullest Potential So That You and Others May Live Harmoniously



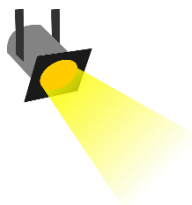
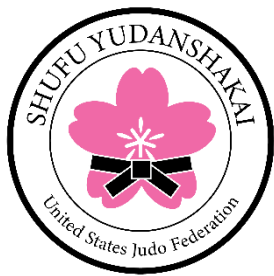
For more information contact :

Shufu Président, Miki Takemori, ShufuPresident.Miki@gmail.com

Shufu Vice-President, Michael Landstreet

Shufu Board of Examiner chairman - Kevin Tamai, (703) 622-686, Email – shufuboardofexaminerchairman.kevin@gmail.com

Visit the website at <http://www.shufujudo.org>



Shufu Spotlight



The Kenzo Uyeno Story: A Stalwart of Judo By Robert Wells, BB East Coast Editor

With the passing of Kenzo Uyeno, President of the Judo Black Belt Federation of America, in Washington, D.C., on June 1st, 1963, Judo lost a great leader as well as a keen competitor. Complications in what would otherwise have been a minor surgery was the cause of his death. He was 39. Hiro Fujimoto of Detroit, Vice President of the Federation, assumed Uyeno's duties. The J.B. B.B., the direct representative in U.S.A. for the Kodokan Judo Institute of Tokyo, is responsible for promotion of the sport in the U.S. and for maintaining Kodokan standards. Uyeno, a 5th Degree (Godan) at the time of his death, was awarded a 6th Degree (Rokodan) posthumously by the Federation.

Born in San Pedro, California, in 1923, Uyeno began his Judo career at the age of 9 in Palos Verdes Dojo. Before he was 15, the team that he captained won the Southern California Championship. He was promoted to 1st Degree (Shodan). At the age of 18 he was awarded a rank of 2nd Degree (Nidan). When World War II began, the Japanese-Americans on the West Coast were confined in "relocation" camps. Uyeno taught Judo for two years in the Poston Relocation Center and while there, in 1943, he received his 3rd Degree (Sandan). In 1948 he graduated cum laude from the University of California at Los Angeles. Military service then took him to Washington, D.C., area where he made his home after his discharge. He won the East Coast Black Belt Championship for five consecutive years starting in 1953. In 1954, the year he earned his 4th Degree (Yodan), he helped organize the Capitol Judo Black B Federation (Shufu Judo Yudanshakai), which was to represent the J.B.B.F. from Maine to Florida. He became its first President. He was awarded his 5th Degree (Godan) in 1958. In 1962 he was elected President of the J.B.B.F. His associates in the national Judo organization remember him for his dignity and his strong leadership.

Those who worked with him were constantly surprised and impressed by his ability to pick out the most essential facts quickly in any discussion or complex problem. His last official duties for U.S. Judo took him to Sao Paulo, Brazil, in the spring of 1963 to represent the J.B.B.F. in the Pan American Games. He had competed in the Games himself in 1955, 1956 and 1957, and he had a speaking knowledge of Spanish. At the time of his death, Uyeno was Chief of the Systems Development Division of the Data Systems Office, Army Material Command, in Washington. His civil service rating had the approximate military equivalent of Brigadier-General. He received many honors in government schools and achieved the highest scholastic record ever attained at the Army Finance School. Through his untiring and unselfish efforts Kenzo Uyeno, a dedicated Judo-ka, has contributed immensely to the sport he loved so well. His leadership will be sorely missed. He truly was . . . a Stalwart of Judo.