Volume 23, Issue 4 July 2017 Newsletter







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Coming Soon our SEJSCC's

54th Annual Cultural Festival and Ondo JULY 22 – 23 Sat. and Sun.



*Cultural Arts Displays*Raffle Prizes*Martial Arts Demonstrations*Boutique*Great Foods*Games*Ondo Dancing*Entertainment Indoor Stage & Outdoor Stage*Shuttle Service to nearby school parking

Ondo Dance Practice begins July 6th 7:30 pm

Tomodachi

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Richard Shinomoto

Hi everyone!

At our June Board of Directors meeting, we held an election for our next President. I was voted again to serve as President for the year 2017-2018. I am honored and thank everyone for all your help and support.

The Annual Cultural Festival will be held Saturday, July 22nd from 3-9pm and Sunday, July 23rd from 2-8pm. There will be plenty of food, games, Ikebana display and demonstrations by Kendo on Saturday, Judo on Sunday in the Dojo, and Karate on Saturday in the gym. Entertainment in the gym will include a Koto performance on Saturday, Na Wahine'O Kawena Hawaiian Hula, Na Wa a 'O Kamaki Ukulele, Kelsey Kwong-singer, Kamaki and Friends on Sunday. **Bingo will be in rooms 1&2 from 3-6pm Saturday and 2-5pm Sunday** (adults only please).

Appearing on the outdoor stage will be Hawaiian Delites, Gakuen students, Karaoke and Hikari Taiko performances. The Festival is a good time to catch up with old friends and enjoy delicious food. Ondo practice is scheduled for Mondays and Thursdays, starting July 6th from 7:30 to 8:30pm at the Center. Everybody is welcome to join in on the fun and learn the dances. Mark your calendar and please come join us!

A reminder to all that parking at the Center for the festival on Saturday and Sunday will be reserved for Seniors, Elderly and Handicap only. Set up workers please park on the street and use Harvest Avenue entrance. There will also be a shuttle service to and from Lampton Elementary School: 14716 Elmcroft Ave. Norwalk, CA. when parking is full at the Center.

Mark your calendar for **October 14th** for our annual Ono Hawaiian Pancake Breakfast and Boutique. You can have breakfast and do your Christmas shopping all on the same day. Advanced tickets will be \$6 or \$7 at the door. After you finish shopping, stop by the kitchen and pick up lunch. Judo will begin selling lunch items at 9:00am.



NIKKEI SENIORS

By Mary Iwami

Mother's Day Luncheon was held on May 9th at the Hibachi Grill restaurant where 46 members enjoyed the buffet. Being located in a special section of the restaurant gave us certain privacy for games and focus. Our seniors have enjoyed this restaurant's food which is always freshly cooked, tasty, a good variety and lots of it.

Toby Fusato announced a game which required listing of as many words from the phrase "A Fabulous Happy Mother's Day to All". Arlene Takeshita won the first prize attaining 50 words first. Thank you to Toby Fusato and her helpers Miyako Johnstone and Doris Yarwood for a nice party.

For our annual big mailing of newsletters on May 10, we were grateful that a great many of our seniors showed up to help. We sealed our July Festival raffle tickets and return envelopes in the over 2000 folded newsletters so it took us over a couple of hours to do this work. Thanks to all who kindly came to help!! Like many organizations and individuals who help the Center, our Seniors have generously given their time and funds as well.

Over 40 seniors spent a few hours at Valley View Casino for a fun day. A bus picked them up in the morning at our Center and returned them around 5-6pm. Anyone interested in joining them on Aug. 22, Tuesday, this time to Pechanga Casino in Temecula, can call Toby at 562 860-7368 and get their reservation in. Pechanga is a popular gambling casino with many other features too.

Father's Day was held at our Center with delicious bentos ordered from Sango Restaurant. Entrees were Misoyaki Salmon or Rib Eye Beef with many condiments and including tempura shrimp and veggies, chicken teriyaki accompanying each entrée. Forty-eight seniors attended. Jeanne Shimazaki presented a game to name various kinds of logos. Dick Mercer won first prize naming 28 of 32 in a very short while. Everyone thought it was a good game but trying on their memory. We thank Charlene Kanemoto and Tomi Kateyama for their very generous bag of goodies for everyone and special ones for the fathers: Jeanne for 4 prizes and Vivian Gima for 4 additional gift card awards. Thanks to Mary for overseeing and for her salad plus cake and to Helen Hikiji for her yummy cake for dessert too.

We're in a busy period to finish our projects to sell at our Seniors tables during the July 22-23 Festival. Anyone who wishes to donate unused articles or used articles in good condition may donate them to the Seniors cause. Monies generated will be donated to our Center.



Tomi, Charlene & Jeanne



Mary & Diane stuffing envelopes



Valley View Casino trip - still smiling!



Vivan & Helen

ACKNOWLEDGEMEMTS

May-June					
Mr. & Mrs. Masayuki Onoda	\$100.00				
Tobius Matsumura	\$87.44				
Chizue Ouchi	\$20.00				
Mr. & Mrs. Shinomura	\$100.00				
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Hanki	\$100.00				
Betty Yumori	\$20.00				
Mr. & Mrs. Joe Murakami	\$30.00				
Mr. & Mrs. Mitzi Okazaki	\$50.00				
Shoyei Kitayama	\$100.00				
Prudy Gin	\$50.00				
Mr. & Mrs. Shusaku Tanaka	\$100.00				
Mr. & Mrs. Yosh Shibayama	\$100.00				
Nanka Judo Yudansha Kai	\$500.00				
Toyota Motors	\$5,000.00				

Thank you for your generous support.

CALENDAR

Advisory Committee Mtg - 1st Wed 7pm Center Bd Mtg - 2nd Wed Monthly 7 pm

		0	
July 6	-20	Ondo practice Mon/Th	7:30 pm
10)-14	Camp Hanabi	9-3 pm
22 & 23		Cultural Festival & Ondo	all day
	24	Center Clean Up	6-9 pm
Aug	5	Monthly Bingo games	6:30 pm
	26	Monthly ballroom Dance	6:30 pm
Sept	9	First Day of Japanese School	8:45 am
	9	Monthly Bingo games	6:30 pm
	10	Rascals Basketball begins	1-5 pm
Oct	7	Monthly Bingo games	6:30 pm
	7	Gakuen Undokai	8:45 am
	14	Pancake Breakfast & Boutique	7 am-2 pm
Nov	4	Monthly Bingo games	6:30 pm
	12	Keiro No Hi	11 am—3 pm



Father's Day Honorees

NORWALK KENDO DOJO

By Misako Miyagawa

In the martial arts, as in life, perseverance is all. Week in and week out, many persevere at the dojo. They commit to practice. They're game to learn, dedicated to teach, and determined to advance their skills. They steel mind, flex muscle, and power the heart to meet their goals, and in support of each other. Buoyed by camaraderie and good spirits, achievement, however great or small, becomes a shared joy.

Setting the stage are the instructors: the *sensei* who give so generously of their time, knowledge, and experience. In April, Mr. Cho, the father of kenshi brothers Cho Ryan and Cho Daniel, beautifully captured our sensei in studio-quality photographs. Once the photos are framed, it will be wonderful to see them adorning the dojo corridor. Thank you very much, Mr. Cho!

In May, new member Zavala Rafael began learning kendo. Washington Christine returned to iaido. And kenshi Yoon Courtney is back for the summer. Welcome, and welcome back! May the perseverance of your steps, new and renewed, forge well your paths ahead.

On June 11, Okuno Isamu sensei passed his 6 Dan laido promotional exam at the AUSKF laido and Jodo Camp, in Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania. With a calm mind and humble spirit, his steady persistence inspires – and was rewarded by an international panel of judges at the camp. Hearty congratulations, Okuno sensei!



Cho Sensei's 4 Dan Celebration (rear row, 3rd from left)

Persistence also means promoting kendo to a potential, new generation of kenshi! On June 9, a kendo demonstration was held at Burbank Elementary School. Thank you to Domen Sumi, and Andy, for organizing our first-time participation at this school event. And thank you to Yoon Brian, Yoon Courtney, Cho Daniel, and Kim Ryan for participating. Good going! Norwalk's two competitors on Team SCKF, Chang Jeffrey sensei (men's team) and Fu Linda (women's team), have been tenacity and endurance embodied! Sacrificing much to meet the grueling demands of many long months of extra practice, both are poised (at the time of this writing) to compete in the AUSKF Kendo Championships from June 23 to 25, in San Jose, CA.

In preparation, Chang sensei's pledge to himself this year was consistency with every practice: "almost as if each practice would be my last." More than mere words, Chang sensei felt that that conscious approach "really helped me sculpt a stronger work ethic, more incisive precision and, most importantly, a lot more focus." He also took to heart the wisdom that success isn't about the pursuit of greatness, but that consistent hard work, including when no one's looking, is what leads to success -- out of which greatness emerges. By the date of this issue's publication, whatever the outcome of the championship will have been, we are all very proud of both these stalwart competitors, and have wished them gambatte! Ahead: SCKF Individual Championships, at Wilson Park in Torrance, July 9. Camp Hanabi kendo demonstration, July 12. And the SEJSCC's annual cultural festival July 22 & July 23: bring family and friends for fun, ondo dancing, music, games, martialarts demonstrations, and great food!

* * * *



Okuno sensei (left foreground)

Please support Japanese School Fund-raising

Purchase Tokyo Central/ Marukai Gift Certificates

Available in \$10 denominations Ask any Board member or Gakuen parent

Also available at the Monthly Bingo



Good Luck to Team SCKF Members Chang Jeffrey and Fu Linda

NORWALK YOUTH SPORTS

by Evelyn Young

State testing, finals, end-of-the-year parties, promotions to the next grade...As this school year comes to a close, we also celebrate the achievements that our NYS players have made on and off the court. Congratulations to the many boys and girls who earned distinguished awards at their schools, who were recognized for their service to the community, and who exemplified the truest character of scholar athletes.

Congratulations also to the NYS teams that made a spectacular showing during the SEYO Senior season, the FOR Tournament, and the Tigers Tournament. Leading in the standings in the SEYO Senior season were the Blue Diamonds (Girls Middle) with an 8-1 record, the Defenders (Boys Lower Silver) with a 7-1 record, and the Vipers (Boys Lower Bronze) with a 6-2 record. Meanwhile, the following teams captured the championship or runner-up titles at the FOR Tournament and the Tigers Tournament.

Summertime also means that SEYO baseball season is in high gear and that the Cultural Festival will soon be upon us. On the weekend of 7/22-7/23, come enjoy the many cultural performances, carnival games, displays, merchandises, and the yummy food!

Tigers Tournament

- 1st: Black Storm (4th Grade Girls Gold Division)
- 1st: Sonics (5th Grade Boys Silver Division)
- 1st: Legacy (10th Grade Girls Middle Division)
- 2nd: Wolverines (2nd Grade Boys Gold Division)
- 2nd: Blue Thunder (6th Grade Boys Gold Division)
- 2nd: Firecrackers (9th Grade Girls Lower Division)

FOR Tournament

- 1st: Starbursts (3rd Grade Girls Bronze Division)
- 2nd: Lightning (5th Grade Boys Silver Division
- 1st: Blue Diamonds (9th Grade Girls Silver Division)
- 1st: Rebels (11th Grade Boys Silver Division)
- 2nd: Lightning Bolts (11th Grade Boys Silver Division)
- 2nd: Hornets (11th Grade Boys Gold Division)



Blue Diamonds—FOR Tournament 9th Grade Girls Silver Division Champions: (Top L-R): Brooklyn R., Alyssa A., Kylee I., Kimberly H. (Bottom L-R): Julianna L., Brissa C., Ilyana C., Angie C.



NYS Rebels (1st Place) & Lightning Bolts (2nd Place)— FOR Tournament 11th Grade Boys Silver Division:

(Top L-R): Kameron, Christian P., Marcellus, Joseph S., Conner, Joshua, Jett, Brandon. (Bottom L-R): Christian B., Matt, Joseph P., Diego, Kevin, Sam, Ryan.

Southeast Japanese School & Community Center Activities List If you are interested in any of the activities at the Center, please contact the person listed below

Southeast Gakuen: Kimie Matsumoto 562 863-5996 Ikebana (Flower Arrgmt): Ogawa Sensei 714 893-1245 Guitar Class: Yuji Hata 562 695-1908 Norwalk Youth Sports: nysyouthsports@gmail.com Judo: Sergio Lemus email: sergiolemus@mac.com Kendo: Brian Yoon email: yoonbrian@hotmail.com Karate: Brock Nishimura 714 826-9128 Hikari Taiko: (866) 6HIKARI or (866) 644-5274 Norwalk Nikkei Seniors: Toby Fusato 562 860-7368 Na Wahine 'O Kawena: Karen Toyoshiba 562 863-5996 Hawaiian Karaoke Club: Stan Shimomura 562 865-9672 Ukulele Class: Kamaki Keawe 714 928-7157 Norwalk Dance Club: Edna Kurihara 714 369-2463 Koto Class: Kozue Matsumoto (661) 877-1996

NORWALK DANCE CLUB

By Connie Ciranna

NDC "South of the Border" Dance - May 27th, 2017

First of all, NDC wants to thank the Judo Group for setting up the tables for the dance. We really appreciated their help! Secondly, another "Big" thanks goes to Helen & George, for going out & getting our tasty snack of "Crunchtadas" & providing the individual fruit bowls for all 74 guests from Langley, West Covina, GVNC, & NDC. Another thanks to the kitchen crew, Harriet, Jim, Jean I., Hideko I., & Aileen M.

There was no time for a siesta after that tasty snack! It was time to hit the dance floor with Edna! She led the group with two dances, Marimba" & the "Circle Salsa". Thanks, Edna! Also, we thank our DJ, Yuso,, for providing a variety of dance music through out the evening.

Norwalk Dance Club June Social - June 24th, 2017

Now that graduations & Father's Day are over, & summer has officially begun, all 62 dancers could relax & enjoy dancing to the music of our DJ, Yuso. But before we could enjoy eating our snack, our DJ had us do a mixer. It was nice to see all those who participated in the mixer.

Finally, it was time to eat! Everyone seemed to enjoy the ham croissant sandwich, chips, salad, & the jello, which Helen, Harriet, & Edna made. Again we thank Helen & George, for all the work they do in preparing our snack. We also thank Jean I. & Ben Y. who helped in the kitchen.

Of course, after eating the delicious snack, Edna K. was ready to teach the dancers two line dances, "Sophisticated Swing", & ""Old Time Rock'n Roll". Edna puts in a lot of time & effort in preparing the line dances. Thank you, Edna!

Again NDC thanks all those who attended their June Social. There is no dance in July, but don't forget the annual Festival & Ondo on July $22^{nd} \& 23^{rd}!$

NDC looks forward to seeing you at the "Hawaiian Social" on August 26^{th} .

HIKARI TAIKO

By Robie La

Happy Summer Season! It's been a busy time for everyone at Hikari Taiko. We are working hard to prepare for our Cultural Festival performances. Both our Kuma and Tora classes will be playing two songs each; the Kuma class will perform on Saturday while the Tora class will perform on Sunday. The performing group will play on both days, and will debut a new song at the event. We're looking forward to performing this song for the first time at our home facility!

April and May were very busy months with many weekend gigs, sometimes two in one weekend! Among them were some elementary school international festivals, as well as a doubleperformance at the Brea Centennial Parade and Picnic where we first marched in their parade in the morning then did a stage gig for their picnic in the afternoon. We also performed for two private parties. The first was to help celebrate a 50th wedding anniversary in Seal Beach, while the second was to celebrate the birthdays of three remarkable women, one of who was celebrating her 93rd birthday at the Miyako Hotel. We also got to meet Army Staff Sgt. Hiroshi "Hershey" Miyamura, who received the Congressional Medal of Honor for his actions in the Korean War at this party. Mr. Miyamura said he enjoyed our performance for his family very much, and presented each of us with a challenge coin that bears his name and rank. We were deeply honored to receive this symbol of integrity and distinction.



Eager to eat delicious Crunchtadas!



"Sophisticated Swing" moves



Brea Parade!



Challenge coin from SSgt. Hiroshi H. Miyamura presented to us at a performance.

HIKARI TAIKO

Steve La is the new instructor for our Kuma class. He has been playing drums since he was seven years old, and teaches classes and workshops at Cal State Long Beach. He is also a member of our performing group, and has made the addition of teaching taiko easily.

We also have two new performing group members! Angela Lopez began her taiko career with Hikari Taiko in 2012. She started with our basics class and progressed quickly and steadily through our beginner and intermediate classes. Samantha Mark began playing taiko with Kitsune Taiko, and was the Creative Director for UCI's Jodaiko taiko group. Both of them are hard workers, excellent performers and outstanding team members. We are very fortunate and look forward to doing more performances together! Harriet Yamada will be teaching our annual Soran Bushi dance at the upcoming ondo practices in July. This is a traditional Japanese sea shanty that represents the fishermen of Hokkaidō. Every year at the Cultural Festival, members of Hikari will entertain the audience with this dance, and everyone is invited to come up and join us.

We will be having a new beginner's workshop starting in August. This is a perfect opportunity to give taiko a try. If you are interested, please contact us at email:

hikaritaikodrummers@gmail.com.

We're looking forward to seeing everyone at the Cultural Festival. In addition to our performances, we'll be doing the ondo drumming for the dancers. Come on over and say hi!



Our new instructor Steve La



Angela Lopez





Samantha Mark

Performance at Burbank Elementary International Fair

SEJSCC BOARD MEMBERS

If you wish to contact any of the board members, please call the Center and leave a message.

Koto Class Started Saturdays 12:30 Come and Observe First Class Free



Instructor: Kozue Matsumoto https://kotosounds.wordpress.com Or for inquiries call (661) 877-1996 kozuematsumoto@alum.calarts.edu Linda Kusuda Tye Masaki Kimie Matsumoto Fred Matsumoto Carrie Nakatani Ernie Nishii Mas Onoda Richard Shinomoto Colleen Sonoda Tosh Teramoto Dean Wada Bob Yamada Ted Yoshimura

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JAPANESE SCHOOL

Kimie Matsumoto

Gakuen students observed Children's Day on May 6th. Students enjoyed a presentation from the advanced class along with the display of Koi Nobori and Musha Ningyo. We are fortunate to have two sets of displays this year because of a donation from Mr. Andy Okamoto. The students also participated in with the annual Jan Ken Pon contest. The winner this year is Maddox Yokoyama.

The Ohanashikai, Speech program, was held May 20th. All students presented in front of an enthusiastic audience of parents, grandparents, and friends. Each student shared what they have learned thus far in their classes using visuals to enhance their presentation. It was obvious how much work each student put into the presentations. They were all rewarded with a trophy for their efforts. This year's trophies were made possible by a grant from JBA.

We are fast approaching the end of the school year. Our new student registration will be held July 22th and 23th. We still have room for new students if you know of someone interested in enrolling. Our kindergarten class is for 5 year olds and the beginner class is for 6 and up. Call the school or come in on any Saturday before our school ends on Festival day July 23rd.

The annual Camp Hanabi is scheduled for July 10 to 14th. The all day camp introduces the Japanese culture to students ages 5 to 10 years old with a variety of activities including language, songs, crafts, food tasting and folk tales. The Community Center wide activities are introduced by their respective instructors which include Ikebana, Karate, Kendo, Taiko and Basketball. New this year will be demonstration of Odori.



Above is the Beginner Class observing Children's Day . Below is the Kindergarten class performing for Ohanashikai speech program



Our monthly cultural event for July is "Tanabana", the Star Festival. Traditionally, this festival is celebrated on July 7th. Students write their wishes and tie them to the bamboo limbs. The students learn about the meaning of "Tanabata". Everyone will help decorate the bamboo and hang their wishes.

Last day of instruction is July 15th. We will have the awards assembly, promotion, and graduation. Students with perfect and near perfect attendance for the year will receive awards and a gift from the PTA. During the last hour of school, students will clean their classrooms and will be treated to a pizza party by the PTA. Have a great summer and see you in September. School will start on September 9th. If you have not already paid your registration for the fall, please do so ASAP.



Winner of Jan Ken Pon contest

Southeast Japanese School and Community Center http://www.sejscc.org/school/main.ht m 14615 S. Gridley Road · Norwalk, CA 90650 Fall Student Registration

July 22 and 23rd , 2017 (9 am – 5 pm)



FALL SEMESTER STARTS SEPT. 9th Experience Japanese Culture, Learn language through Games & Songs For all ages 5 - adult Tuition

\$65.00 per month plus registration fee This program is open to everyone regardless of race or religion.

NORWALK JUDO DOJO

By June Uyekawa

As we embark into summer, many of our judoka have paved the way to exciting new journeys, reflected on their accomplishments and will forge ahead to unknown territory.

Be who you are and say what you feel because those who mind don't matter and those who matter don't mind..."Don't cry because it's over. Smile because it happened.

--Dr. Seuss

Do you remember April 23rd? The Nanka Spring Tournament was the event at Westminster High School. Congratulations to our 1st place winners, Weston Uyekawa, Joey Salazar and Kay Sugahara. Coming up with 2nd place are Edan Yi, Nadia Smith, Juliana Lemus and Ariana Lemus. A big woot woot to Desmond Wong for coming up strong with 3rd place.

The Grand of Long Beach was the venue for the annual Nanka Installation and Awards Banquet held on May 13th. Congratulations to Conor Uyekawa for being the recipient this year.

"The man who is at the peak of his success and the man who has just failed are in exactly the same position. Each must decide what he will do next."--Jigoro Kano

Without missing a beat, the West Coast Invitational Tournament was held on May 21st.

A big high five to Edan Yi (in only his second tournament!) Joey Salazar, Conor Uyekawa and Kay Sugahara for bringing home a 1st place medal. The Lum family had a great experience with Isabel coming home with a 1st place medal and brother Matthew, in his first tournament, placing in 2nd place ! Rounding



Norwalk Community Center was the host for the 1st annual USJF/Nanka Elite Training Camp that encompassed the Memorial Day weekend. Renowned senseis, Tokuzo Takahashi, Shintaro Nakano, and Shinjiro Sasaki demonstrated and taught many judo techniques and unique styles to the 125 plus judokas in attendance. Check out the USJF Facebook page to get just a glimpse of an impactful weekend of judo.

June 11th was the Barstow Tournament that brought a handful of judoka out to compete. Congrats to Juliana and Ariana Lemus, Joey Salazar for taking home 1st place. Daisy Perrey came away with 2nd place and sister Kylie just missed the podium.

"Judo. The highest accomplishment of mind and body"----Jigoro Kano

The Junior Olympics were held in Spokane, Washington this year and Conor and Weston Uyekawa brought back a lot of experiences and made new friends. We encourage more competitors to come join us next year. The level of competition from around the country opens up one's eyes to the impact judo has all over the world. And to that point, we congratulate our own Joey Salazar for bringing home a 3rd place medal from the International Cancun Judo Tournament held in Cancun, Mexico. His hard work and determination has produced a feat that has yet to be accomplished at Norwalk. We are very proud of you Joey!

Save the Date—Shorai practice, July 1st at Guerreros Judo Club in La Puente, CA. USJA/USJF Grassroots Judo Summer Nationals in West Palm Beach, FL. On July $8^{th}/9th$

California State Games on July 16th in San Diego, CA.

Look out for the sign up sheet for our biggest fundraiser of the year, the 54th Annual Cultural Festival and Ondo on July22-23 weekend. We Need You!

"The final goal of judo discipline is to perfect yourself and contribute something of value to the world". —Jigoro Kano and my favorite Dr. Seuss quote during graduation time-

Kid, you'll move mountains!

----Dr. Seuss

Conor Uyekawa 2017 Outstanding Judoka of the Year

Joey Salazar 3rd place winner at Cancun Int'l Tournament with Sensei Blinky



ANK

EL ITE ITRAL

Nakano / Sasaki / Takahashi Elite Judo Camp held at Norwalk

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Simply log into the special SEJSCC link at http://smile.amazon.com/ch/23-7011600 every time you purchase, and Amazon will Automatically donate .5% to our Center. Thank you for your support!

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