



American Judo

A Journal of the United States Judo Association

Winter 2008 - 2009



***Rusty Kanokogi
Fund Announced***

American Judo

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Winter 2008 - 2009

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FEATURED ARTICLES

Martial Arts: What Goes Around, Comes Around by <i>Dr. Lawrence A. Beard</i>	9
The Three Whys of Martial Arts Clinics by <i>Patricia Hill</i>	10
Kotani Senesi's Visit by <i>E. E. Carol</i>	11
Kano's Cat's Out Of The Bag by <i>Ronald Allan Charles</i>	12
I Gave A Promotion To Kotani by <i>Ronald Allan Charles</i>	14
Flipping The Bird by <i>Ronald Allan Charles</i>	18

JUDO NEWS and VIEWS

Fund For Women Created <i>Press Statement from Women's Sports Foundation</i>	6
Female U.S. judoka Kanokogi receives award from Emporer <i>Japan Times Online</i>	7
2008 USJA/USJF Winter Nationals by <i>Gary Goltz</i>	8
USJA/USJF Coach Certification Reciprocation Announcement	16
USJF/USJA Membership for Active Military Judo Members.....	17
New USJA Membership Form	19

CLUB NEWS AND VIEWS

Jundokal Judo and Jujitsu Club's Winter Promotion Ceremony	15
Goltz Judo Club's Calendar of Events.....	13
Induction of Devin P. Cohen as a Judge of the Civil Court of the City of New York.....	20
Marc Cohen's Birthday.....	23
Toshikazu Okada & Hal Sharp Grassroots Clinic.....	24
Starrett Cup.....	25

Letters

January President's Letter by <i>Dr. AnnMaria Rousey DeMars</i>	4
Report From Election Committee Chair by <i>Dr. Martin L. Bregman</i>	5
Call for Recommendations for Outstanding USJA Competitor by <i>Ronald Allan Charles</i>	21

On the cover: Rusty Kanokogi Fund created by Women's Sports Foundation.
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To: United States Judo Association members
From: AnnMaria Rousey, De Mars, Ph.D.
Subject: January President's Letter

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

We ended 2008 on a happy note, just shy of 8,000 active members and 984 clubs.

The USJA is fortunate to have donations not just of money but of time and talent. Our system of regional coordinators, headed by Joan Love and the USJA Development subcommittee chairs, continue to offer a wealth of opportunities throughout the country. In March, we will have three clinics on the east coast, at the Ocean State International, coordinated by junior subcommittee chair, Serge Boussyou, in Maryland, with assistance from regional coordinator Marshall Coffman and in Virginia, organized by Chuck Wall. Roy Hash's June camp in Wichita Falls, Texas offers training for athletes and coach certification. The Judo Forum camp, organized by Paul Nogaki (mini-camp subcommittee chair) and Neil Ohlenkamp, Mr. Judo Forum himself, will offer days of judo for all ages right on the Pacific Ocean. It includes certification in kata, coaching and just laying on the beach (okay, that's not exactly a certification). Best of all, it is right after the USJA Junior Nationals, to be held in San Diego, hosted by Jesse Jones. Camps continue in every region of the country from the Carolinas to upstate New York to northern California mountains. James Wall, in Louisiana, is doing everything from technical officials training to Judo Movie night.

Over 560 competitors participated in the USJA/USJF Winter nationals with Gary Goltz, tournament director extraordinaire. Donations from Dr. James Lally contributed greatly to the success of the tournament and USJA operations, as did the support from our other top donors, Raimundo Marquez. Robert Treat and Andrew Connelly. Thank you!

If your life is too busy to be coordinating judo events, but you would still like to support the USJA, your donations make a BIG difference. You can call toll free 877- 411- 3409 or mail a check to USJA 21 North Union Blvd., Colorado Springs, CO USA 80909. You can designate a specific type of events you would like to support, or simply help our general operations. It really is true that every little bit counts. We gain far more support from our large number of individual members put together than from any individual donor.

Moving through the 21st century, we are trying to find ways to make judo more affordable and accessible to the average person. Although it was necessary to increase our dues to \$45 per year to meet rising costs, the USJA remains the lowest price of any judo organization. We continue to offer discounts to multiple members of the same family. USJA membership entitles you to a 10% discount on everything Golden Tiger Martial Arts sells <http://club.goldentiger.com/USJA>. USJA members also get a discount on Zebra mats. <http://www.zebramats.com/>

We are increasing our on-line presence with a USJA Forum on the judo info site <http://judoforum.com/index.php?showforum=25> a USJA Facebook <http://www.facebook.com/home.php?#/group.php?gid=42008194147>

The USJA resources site provides free access to everything from club handbooks to videos of judo games, <http://www.usja-development.com/resources/>

Our Coach Committee chair, Jim Pedro, Sr. has assigned two of his outstanding committee members, Bill Montgomery and Hayward Nishioka, the task of making the coaching program more accessible to more members. Last year, we had 14 clinics offered in ten states. This year, we already have ten clinics scheduled and it is only mid-January!

As always, there are far more people doing far more great work than I could mention in a dozen letters. If you want to read more about what is going on in the USJA, you can check my blog at <http://drannmaria.blogspot.com/>

If you want to give your opinions, comments, suggestions, please email me at: drannmaria@fractaldomains.com

With everything happening and all of you, it truly will be a HAPPY new year.





Report From Election Committee Chair by Dr. Martin L. Bregman

Final Report Election Committee

The following are the recommendation gleaned from the emails that you sent me concerning the last USJA Election. Due to the perceived problems of that last election, though not serious, it is suggested that the following steps be undertaken before the next election.

1. That an effort be made to locate and obtain an email or residence address for all of the USJA Life Members. When we became Life members we were told that we would always have the full privileges of membership. Purchasing annual memberships after becoming Life Members were not part of the original contract. Once all life memberships are located it will be possible to determine who of them wish to participate in the future (also who of them are no longer living).
2. That an election web site be established on the USJA web site for a period of two months prior to the next election with the list of candidates and instruction to vote for 11 of the listed members. An electronic "button" vote (as does AOL in its news blurbs) can then be set up keyed to the USJA Membership or Life Membership number. Once that member votes he/she will not be able to vote again in that election.
3. That a biographical form be filled out for each candidate and made available electronically on that web site so that our members know whom they are voting for (example attached). In addition to this form a statement of purpose for running by the candidate would be in order, and also should be available to the voter.
4. That notice of the election be indicated on all mailings and electronic mailings going out from the USJA for a period of not less than 6 months prior to the election informing the members that the election is upcoming and where they can log on to vote.
5. That a notice, on all paper mailings to the members, indicate that if they do not have computer access, to contact the central office and a form will be mailed to them. If they do not contact you then it can be assumed they have no interest in voting.
6. That the final paper vote count be tabulated on October 15 and added to the electronic vote on that date. The regular mail ballots must be postmarked prior to the deadline for voting (September 30), but one additional week after that deadline should be allowed for those ballots to arrive at your tabulating location.

These suggestions, if enacted, will alleviate the need for and cost of flying vote counters into a central location as the majority of votes will be tabulated electronically. One person, not running for the board, nor an employee of the organization, can be solicited to count the paper ballots.

Yours in service to Judo,

Dr Martin L. Bregman
International Judo Federation Referee
Delegate at Large, USA Judo
Chairman, Promotion Board, Oklahoma Judo Association
Chairman, Awards Committee, Oklahoma Judo Association
Head Coach, Tulsa Judo Club



Fund for Women Created

Press Statement

Women's Sports Foundation and "Mother of Judo" Create Fund for Women Women's Sports Foundation Announces Endowment Supporting U.S. Women's Judo

NEW YORK (January 14, 2009) – The Women's Sports Foundation today announced the creation of the Rusty Kanokogi Fund for the Advancement of U.S. Women's Judo, named in honor of the first U.S. female judo practitioner (judoka) to earn a seventh-degree black belt. The fund, created through the generosity of the Richard and Pamela Ader Foundation, will help U.S. female judokas finance travel and training.

"This fund would have been unthinkable 30 years ago," said Kanokogi, who competed disguised as a man in the 1950s, when women were barred from judo leagues. After being discovered and disqualified, Kanokogi dedicated herself to the sport and would later be credited with bringing women's judo to the Olympic Games. "After 50 years of competing and advocating for women's judo, it is both stunning and rewarding to receive recognition and to see opportunities for up-and-comers arise," she continued. Kanokogi has also received the World Pioneer of Women's Judo honor, the prestigious John Osako Award for excellence in refereeing and, most recently, the Emperor's Award of the Rising Sun from the Japanese government.

The Richard and Pamela Ader Foundation donated \$100,000 to create the endowment, which will be distributed in grants of up to \$5,000. "Rusty is a giver by nature—I discovered that after serving with her on the Women's Sports Foundation Board," said Richard Ader. "After she received the Emperor Award and we heard the way people spoke of her and her generosity, we decided it was time to do something in Rusty's name."



© C. H. Halporn

"Thanks to trailblazers like Rusty, women have more chances than ever to play," said Women's Sports Foundation founder Billie Jean King. "The Women's Sports Foundation will continue to salute pioneers like Rusty and to play a role in the creation of opportunities until we've reached the end of the road—equality."

Applications will be available in March of 2009 to U.S. female judokas who have demonstrated the potential to achieve high performance and rankings but lack support from traditional sources.

The Women's Sports Foundation—the leading authority on the participation of women and girls in sports—advocates for equality, educates the public, conducts research and offers grants to promote sports and physical activity for girls and women. Founded by Billie Jean King in 1974, the Women's Sports Foundation builds on her legacy as a champion athlete, advocate of social justice and agent of change. We strive for gender equity and fight discrimination in sports. Our work shapes public attitude about women's sports and athletes, builds capacities for organizations that get girls active, provides equal opportunities for girls and women, and supports physically and emotionally healthy lifestyles. The Women's Sports Foundation is recognized worldwide for its leadership, vision, strength, expertise and influence.

For more information, please call the Women's Sports Foundation at 800.227.3988 or visit www.WomensSportsFoundation.org.

Contact: Jaime McBeth
646.912.8099 (o)/ 516.528.7044
(c) JMcBeth@WomensSportsFoundation.org

Read more about Rena "Rusty" Kanokogi, the Mother of Women's Judo.

<http://www.womenssportsfoundation.org/Content/Articles/Athletes/About-Athletes/R/Rena-Kanokogi-Mother-of-Womens-Judo.aspx>

Wednesday, Nov. 26, 2008



Female U.S. judoka Kanokogi receives award from Emperor



NEW YORK (Kyodo) Rena "Rusty" Kanokogi, the highest-ranking female American judoka, has been decorated with a prestigious civilian honor by Japan for her work in establishing U.S. national and Olympic judo competitions for women. Kanokogi, a seventh-degree black belt often referred to as the "mother of women's judo," was given the Emperor's Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Rosette, during a ceremony Monday at the official residence of Motoatsu Sakurai, the Japanese consul general in New York.

"This is the happiest day of my life," Kanokogi said. "The honor bestowed upon me by the Emperor and the government of Japan, the honor of the Rising Sun, is both amazing and humbling." The 73-year-old New York native is credited with laying the foundation for women's competitive judo, especially its inclusion in the Olympics, where it made its official debut in Barcelona in 1992.

Kanokogi is one of 75 non-Japanese citizens who received this year's autumn decorations from the government. Two other Americans — Los Angeles Dodgers Hall of Fame Coach Tommy Lasorda and former Vice President Walter Mondale, who served as ambassador to Japan from 1993 to 1996 — were among the recipients.

"I hope you will accept this award, not just as a recognition of your achievements, but also as a symbol of the strong bonds of friendship you have forged between the people of Japan and the United States," Sakurai said to Kanokogi.

Born in Brooklyn, Kanokogi began practicing the martial art in the late 1950s when women were prohibited from competing in judo. She was often the lone female sparring with men in New York-area clubs.



2008 USJA/USJF Winter Nationals By Gary Goltz

December 6 & 7, 2008

The tournament was a lot of work. We had a record of nearly 560 competitors. Our team of volunteers lead by 4 or 5 key captains did a great job. Seeing everyone enjoying themselves and walking around talking to all my judo friends makes the whole thing worth the effort. I am grateful to have had the opportunity to help facilitate the JA and JF working side by side to promote grassroots judo. To everyone who participated and or helped make this a success, I thank you from the bottom of my heart.



USJA Player of the year award went to Ronda Rousey and Jim Bregman received honorary gold Medals from the Winter Nationals!

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Martial Arts: What Goes Around, Comes Around by Dr. Lawrence A. Beard



When I started judo in the dark ages (well, in the late 60s of the last millennium), judo reigned supreme among martial arts. All others were compared to judo. We even were credited with the infamous judo chop. There were several clubs in my area that got together and played judo as a martial art rather than sport. Judo was for fun, focusing on growth and development rather than Olympic medals.

Then the focus began to change. Organizations formed to help us govern ourselves and prepare to compete on a world level for the elusive gold. Organizations charged for and required membership to play. Focus shifted from small recreational clubs of kids to larger, elite clubs that could produce champions. Organizations bragged about whose club was larger, which club generated money. Promotions were based on factors other than skill. Suddenly fun was sucked right out of judo. There were MORE judo players in my state 40 years ago than today. Where did they go? Judoka sought other sports, ones that would allow them simply to play.

Enter the Dragon, Hollywood, Bruce Lee and Chuck Norris. Judoka discovered a martial art that would fill the void: karate. Karate was fun, had cool uniforms (some colored, not white or off-white proscribed by judo rules), and some even had big club patches on the back. And what did we learn? People love colored uniforms and patches, so judo continued to regulate the color of the gi and now decided to regulate the number (1) and size (4" maximum) of patches.

Promotions in other arts were regularly scheduled, and practitioners had a reward system: a colored belt. How cool. Taekwondo came along with flashy techniques mixed with dynamic kicks, so now we have exercise, flash, and self-defense rolled into a single art. And America had bunches of world champions and taekwondo even managed an Olympic gold medal or two.

And just when we thought karate had cornered the market, along comes kung-fu and ninjitsu. Holy moley, Batman! Duck! Here comes a flying star followed by a pair of dumchucks (at least that's what I called them when I clocked myself behind the ear with a pair).

Karate flourishes, and kung fu and ninjitsu carve themselves a strong foothold, while judo teeters along, curling up in the turtle position and fighting back by calling others sellouts and traitors to the arts. Real artists don't sell their wares. Well, real martial artists don't. Well, judo coaches anyway.

Now enter BJJ and MMA. Face it, BJJ practitioners took our techniques, perfected them, and beat us to death with them. Grappling (does anyone remember that judo is actually Japanese wrestling?) now is king, and everyone wants to learn. Now this new generation of grapplers has reopened judo's doors a crack (after slamming them tightly in the 90s), since there are not as many MMA instructors as judo instructors. But wait. Something's missing. BJJ/MMA fighters are discovering something they forgot. Puncher-kickers are proficient fighters unless taken down. Grapplers are great AFTER they take you down, but there is a missing element: it hurts to be thrown. Now grapplers are showing up at our dojo asking to learn to toss opponents.

The other arts have forced us to come full circle. Judo has the opportunity to once again be a major player, but we have to avoid past mistakes. We must again become a comprehensive art and regain our martial focus. We must welcome other arts with open arms and learn what they have to teach, learn that they can make judo a better, more comprehensive art. As the great philosopher Pogo once said, "We have met the enemy and they are us."

Dr. Lawrence A. Beard holds rokudan rank in judo. He is an Associate Professor of Special Education at Alabama's Jacksonville State University, where he teaches the JSU Judo-Jujitsu Club.



The Three Whys of Martial Arts Clinics by Patricia Hill



Why do people host Martial Arts clinics?

Why do people attend Martial Arts clinics?

Why do people not attend Martial Arts clinics?

Why do people host Martial Arts clinics?

There could be several reasons. It could be to raise money for their club or organization. This is a valid reason for asking others to pay money to come to your dojo. Another reason could be tradition. A club or organization holds a clinic every year so members can meet, discuss organizational issues, and have fun while practicing Martial Arts. Some host clinics to bring in outside experts to expose their students to other ways of performing techniques. The reason I like best, and I hope why most people host clinics, is to pass on knowledge or obtain knowledge from others while having fun. To me this shows dedication to the Martial Arts.

When someone commits energy, time, and money to host or be a clinician at a clinic, it shows that person truly is interested in development of his/her students as well as the arts.

Why do people attend Martial Arts clinics?

FOR THE FUN! But there's a lot more than fun. Whatever Martial Arts you practice, you make yourself a better martial artist and person by attending clinics. You could spend your entire life in your own dojo — and some clubs encourage this, but then think of all you would miss. You must get out in the Martial Arts world and experience not only what others have to offer, but to meet people you probably never would meet if you remained in your own dojo. Wouldn't life be boring if you never left home? Same with the Martial Arts: You must get out to experience all it has to offer. You must see the arts through the eyes of others to get the full impact of what the Martial Arts can do for you. Staying in one dojo or even within one organization can lead to stagnation. If you never see anything new, you won't know what else is out there and would miss much of the Martial Arts universe. No one group can show everything, no matter how good they think they are. Even if you have interest in one martial art, how can you really understand it unless you see it as others do? How do you know that you don't like other martial arts unless you experience them? I practiced only judo for years and regret that it was late in my career before I learned to experience other martial arts and enjoy them as much as I do judo. Close-minded individuals or organizations never reach their full Martial Arts potential.

Attending and participating in clinics also says a great deal to say about the attendee. Attending clinics can be difficult. We used to just load up the car, fill it with 25-cents-a-gallon gas, and go. To attend now, people must take time off from work, drive or fly long distances (current fuel prices make this very expensive), pay for hotels, food, and the clinic entry fee. Attending even a nearby weekend clinic still requires gas, food, and sometimes hotel expenses. Most clinics I teach are at clubs that can't afford to pay me, or at least pay much, so I usually do the clinics for whatever the host club can bear. Usually it's gratis. I call it giving back to the arts that have given so much to me over the years.

Attendees should be aware that clinics aren't just to show off their pretty new gis or show the participants "this is how we do it in MY dojo." Roll up those sleeves, grab a partner, and get on the mat, regardless of rank. Show your students that you aren't afraid to get dirty and learn something new and that they shouldn't be either.

Why do people not attend Martial Art clinics?

I have spent hours pondering this. I enjoy clinics so much I cannot understand why anyone would not want to attend them. I can only guess at reasons why people would not attend. I begin with the first that jumps to my mind:

1. Laziness. Some are just too lazy to do the work required. Even after two back surgeries, I spend as much time on the mat as my back will allow.
2. Money. Some cannot afford to attend, or use that as an excuse. I know people have financial obligations and that home and family comes first, but one doesn't have to attend every clinic. An occasional clinic will make a big difference, so mark your calendars now and make plans. If you don't find something you like, contact camp hosts whom I bet can find what you want.



3. Ego. I have seen many martial artists who think they know it all and will not attend a clinic: No Need, I Can't Learn Anything New. This attitude irks me.
4. Fear. I will break this into two sections:
 - a. Some new martial artists are afraid they won't fit in or be able to keep up. I have yet to attend a clinic where more skilled attendees would not gladly help those less experienced. Lower ranks benefit the most from clinics and should attend all they can. Never let fear of not being able to do techniques keep you from coming. Others WILL help gladly.
 - b. The second section of fear affects the higher ranked, more experienced martial artist. Some may be afraid that others will see they are not as good as they profess. As long as they do not attend clinics outside their organization and discourage their students from attending, they remain in charge. However, will anyone in their organization ever learn that there are others who know more, who may be better, and that it is okay not to know everything?

The bottom line — if someone is going out of their way to host an event, whenever possible, support them. Attend as many different clinics in as many different arts as you can. Who knows? You may learn something useful.

Patricia Hill, recipient of numerous martial arts honors, holds sandan judo rank and many credentials through the USJA. In addition she has earned yodan ranks in judo, jujitsu, yusool, and hapkido and is proficient in use of the cane, sword, and sai. She is an instructor of the Jacksonville State University Judo – Jujitsu Club in Alabama.

Kotani Sensei's Visit by E. E. Carol



Kotani Sensei came for the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics. He'd represented Japan as a wrestler in the Los Angeles Olympics 60 years earlier and was back to see judo. He gave a seminar at the Vince Tamura Judo Institute to earn a little money for his trip. Tamura Sensei put him up and was a basket case worrying about him. Kotani was in his 80s and Tamura was petrified that he would die while in his care.

I was lucky enough to be chosen as Kotani's uke. There were about 40 judoka in the class, mostly black belts. I figured I'd take a fall for the little old man and not embarrass him. He spoke in rapid-fire Japanese as he demonstrated moves.

Grasping my lapel, he lifted me off the mat and practically snapped my neck! Never had I felt such power. There was no issue about him throwing me. He threw me like a rag doll, dropping me harder than I was used to. I think his back was bothering him. I didn't learn much, because I was

too busy trying to take a good fall without getting hurt.

I was startled about Kotani Sensei's technique. Vince Tamura and Ace Sukigara, both rokudan, interpreted for him and were hard pressed to keep up. After the lesson Tamura set up a lawn chair for Kotani while students asked questions. I sat on the mat and listened to the interpreted questions and answers.

During a lull I bowed formally and asked, "Kotani Sensei, you are well traveled and educated. I find it hard to believe that you do not speak English."

Before either rokudan could answer, Kotani replied, "I speak English very well, but when I teach there is not much for lower ranks to do." He gestured toward Tamura and Sukigara Sensei, standing on each side of him. "So I let them speak for me. Helps them to feel like they are needed." He made this statement with a straight face but winked at me! Ace and Vince exchanged glances in a kind of amazement. Kotani had been at Tamura's home for three days without speaking a word of English!

E. E. Carol, former Police Olympics silver medalist, studied for over 30 years under Vince Tamura. He teaches at his Ichi Ni San Judo and Jujitsu Club in Kemp, Texas, where he is terrorized by seven-year-olds. He holds yodan judo and sandan jujitsu ranks.



Kano's Cat's Out Of The Bag by Ronald Allan Charles



Used to be judo was for humans. Judo's founder, Dr. Jigoro Kano, taught that the ultimate goal of judo is the "harmonious development and eventual perfection of human character." Most judoka, when learning about this goal, focus on the *character* aspect. So had I until this week.

A couple of television programs convinced me judo's not exclusively for humans. Other life forms apparently have learned Kano's art. Kano's cat is out of the bag. There are no more secrets. Judo works, and non-human species are learning and taking advantage of it, probably perfecting their non-human character.

First were aliens. Well, they predated mankind in any case, but among great, gruesome action movie series about aliens versus predators, *Alien* preceded *Predator*. Aliens met their match in Sigourney Weaver, and Predators learned you don't mess around with Arnold Schwarzenegger. Once the Alien and Predator cows were milked to the max and box-office ticket sales had diminished, it was time to bring together the species to sell more movie tickets. Viola! The Aliens vs. Predators series was born.

Aliens fight using their own body skills. Predators, evidently a more evolved species though they wear dreadlocks, are tough but use sophisticated weapons to gain the edge. But in a dark sewer scene in *Aliens vs. Predator – Requiem*, a Predator is attacked by multiple Aliens and hasn't time to use weapons. Instead it uses judo! Now where did it learn that? Using a hip technique, the predator easily tossed its metal assailant, to the alien's chagrin. That's assuming aliens experience chagrin. They are humorless and never grin, though they drool with the best of them.

The other character recently using judo appeared in the new HBO televised series, *True Blood*. While Sookie's vampire boyfriend, Bill, was away creating another vampire as punishment for Bill's killing a vampire to protect Sookie, Sookie falls into the arms of her other close friend, shape-shifter Sam. Sam can change into other creatures at will. So far he's shifted only into dog form, and though not a scary creature, Cujo excepted, it's still something to cower, er, bark about.

Just as Sookie and Sam lock lips in a passionate kiss, vampire Bill returns, whips out his fangs, and attacks Sam to protect Sookie. Ooh, how I relish vampire-shape-shifter-human love triangles! Surprisingly Sam on the bed executes a nice seoi-nage technique, throwing the vampire across the room. As they go at each other's throats while standing, Sookie intervenes and throws out, er, uninvites the vampire. I bet it's tough choosing between a shape-shifter and vampire to love. I try to restrict my own relationships to humans and human judoka.

Back in the old days, you didn't pick up martial arts. You dedicated your life to studying an art. You persuaded a sensei to teach you, moved into his dojo, chopped his firewood, scrubbed dojo floor or mats, showered under a waterfall, went to school or work, then came back and trained and suffered for grueling years. Eventually you married sensei's ugly daughter and pledged to protect him from enemies. In exchange, he found you a job, assisted you in every way, and maybe on his deathbed or your own, swore you to secrecy as he revealed the ancient scroll containing secret techniques of his art.

So who's been teaching judo to predators and shape-shifters? Earlier I opined that Aliens came first, then Predators, but vampires and shape-shifters are Earthlings, so they were here first, didn't have to come from elsewhere. Though none of these creatures has human character to perfect, they have learned judo. Somebody's been letting Kano's cat out again.

I always knew judo was out of this world, and seeing a creature from out of this world performing judo convinces me it's more than internationally popular. I confess to having taught a few characters judo, but these predators and shape-shifters didn't learn anything from me.

Ronald Allan Charles, Ph.D., holds 8th dan judo and 6th dan jujitsu ranks. He teaches these arts free of charge in his Samurai Judo Association club at MWR Athletics at the Naval Weapons Station in beautiful, romantic Goose Creek, SC. He accepts only warm-blooded humans as students.

Calendar of Events



(Dates in brown are club sponsored events)

January 2009

5th Monday - Holiday Break Ends
17th **Saturday** - [Paulo Augusto Grassroots Clinic](#)
19th Monday - Holiday, No Classes
21st **Wednesday** - [Judo Night, Staples Center](#)
18th Sunday - Nanka Novice Tournament, West Covina
31st Sunday - San Fernando Kohaku Tournament

February 2009

7th Saturday - [Nanka Annual Luncheon](#)
16th Monday - Holiday, No Classes
15th Sunday - Sensei Memorial Tournament, San Jose

March 2009

1st Sunday - West Covina Tournament
7th Saturday - [CHP Club Tournament](#)
22nd Sunday - Judo America Tournament, San Diego
28th Saturday & 29th Sunday - USA Judo Youth Scholastic Nationals, York
29th Sunday - Mojica Tournament, Baldwin Park

April 2009

4th Saturday - Las Vegas Open
5th Sunday - Isao Wada Tournament, Long Beach
18th Saturday & 19th Sunday - USA Judo Senior Nationals, San Diego

May 2009

3rd Sunday - Speed Harada Tournament, Norwalk
9th Saturday - [Spring Inter Club Tournament](#)
17th Sunday - Barstow Invitational Tournament
23rd Saturday & 24th Sunday - CJI Championships, San Diego
25th Monday - Holiday, No Classes



I Gave A Promotion To Kotani by Ronald Allan Charles

Like a raging bull, I attacked, only to find myself flying like a bag of trash headed for the heap. I recovered, and with the do-or-die mindset of a berserk ninja having a bad hair day, flung myself again into the fray, only to find myself airborne a heartbeat later, this time with my opponent following to the mat and pinning me.

"You tired?" Kotani Sensei asked, pinning me without using his hands, toying with me as does a pussycat with a mouse.

"No, Sensei! Never tired," I huffed and puffed as I searched for a mouse hole in my struggle to escape from this tiger.

"How old you, Charles-san?"

"Twenty-three, Sensei." I continued my fruitless efforts.

"I 69, and I not tired," the judo master informed me. I'd already figured that.

As I rested by the window Kotani asked, "What rank you, Charles-san?" I'd been wearing a white belt at the Kodokan Judo Institute both to portray humility and to avoid being a target. Donn Draeger, a respected martial artist also studying judo, had suggested this.

"Sankyu, Sensei." Sankyu very much for asking, I thought.

"You ikkyu," Kotani said.

"No, Sensei, sankyu, third brown belt. Sankyu, nikyu, ikkyu. Sankyu for three years."

"You ikkyu," he persisted. "I present you."

Like a referee's IPPON! belatedly registering in my tatami-bashed brain, I recognized this was batsugun, an instantaneous battlefield promotion. A 9th dan could do that.

"Domo arigato," I said bowing.

Next day in the locker room I mentioned this to Donn, who advised me to wear a brown belt to show acceptance of Kotani's promotion, and to inform the office. After borrowing a brown belt, I scurried to Iwasa-san, the nidan office manager, who congratulated me and registered the promotion.

A couple weeks later I asked Kotani Sensei if I needed to demonstrate the entire 40 throws for my shodan test. "Not necessary to drink entire case of wine to know if wine is good," was his response. Made sense, but which ones would examiners wish to taste? I guess sake wasn't his adult beverage of choice.

I asked him to observe my nage-no-kata to see if it was adequate. He stood watching me and my Burmese Army partner perform, then offered, "Hmm, maybe try." Now some would interpret his response as think about considering applying for nomination for candidacy for evaluation for possible promotion. However, I saw bright flashing green lights. Go for it, gaijin!

I asked Iwasa-san to add my name to the monthly examination schedule. He said I had to wait a few months because I was recently promoted. I had to leave Japan to reapply for a new visa so I could stay 18 months more. I'd been in Japan for six months and my visa was expiring. Two weeks in South Korea would break my training regimen of one or two classes every day for the past six months.

"Well, if I had not been promoted recently, if I were still sankyu, could I take the shodan test?" I asked.

"Hai."

"Then let me return my promotion to Kotani Sensei so I can test for black belt while at peak performance. I won't be training while backpacking and hitchhiking around Korea."

"Nobody ever return promotion to Kotani," he said.

"Let's maybe try."





He agreed and a couple of days later informed me that Kotani had accepted my promotion. My path was clear, though it would be a long jump from sankyu to shodan, skipping two ranks. I might fall short, earning promotion to nikyu or ikkyu.

I performed throws, matwork, armbars, and chokes, then kata. Finally came randori. The examiners recruited black belts to help out. A shodan would randori with those aspiring to this rank, a nidan with those going for nidan. These hired hands knew the game. They would not look sloppy and lose face yet knew if they demolished their partners, they might appear unsportsmanlike. So the event usually turned out to be a draw with nobody taking a fall.

My opponent relaxed as we neared the examiners' table. Seized by a crazed samurai spirit, I exploded into a frenzied attack with a bloodcurdling KIAI! This off balanced my opponent, who collided with the table, whereupon 9th dan Shirai and Kotani and 8th and 7th dan examiners leapt from their chairs to avoid the scuffle.

We continued a few more minutes. I'd made an impression and hoped it was the right one. A few days later Iwasa informed me that I was a black belt.

Some years later Kotani was elevated to kudan, 10th degree, to stand alone at the top of the pyramid. When I had worked with him, he was 9th dan. I gave him a promotion. Sure, it was my own, returned, but it makes an interesting story with a unique title.

Ronald Allan Charles, Ph.D., holds 8th dan judo and 6th dan jujitsu ranks and teaches in his Samurai Judo Association club in Goose Creek, SC.

Jundokal Judo & Jujitsu Club's Winter Promotion Ceremony

The Jundokal Judo & Jujitsu Club held its winter promotion ceremony. It was headed by Sensei Greg Fernandez and was attended by Gary Goltz.



photo taken by Lawrence Pandes



United States Judo Association & United States Judo Federation

Coach Certification Reciprocation Announcement

***** UPDATE - SATURDAY, APRIL 28, 2007 *****



By now, we hope that you have read our announcement regarding Coach Certification Reciprocation between the USJA and the USJF.

We have received some inquiries and would like to use this update to provide you with additional options regarding your coach certification...

We understand that the cessation of reciprocity by USA Judo creates a quandary for some USJF and USJA members who have their coach certification through USA Judo. It is not our intent to create additional financial burdens for our members, especially when it comes to participating in our events.

Thus, effective immediately, through July 31, 2007, both the USJA and USJF will **CONVERT** any member's USA Judo coach certification to the respective coach certification where they have membership. Here are the details:

1. Make sure that your membership in your respective organization is current
2. Please mail/fax a short note indicating that you would like to convert your USA Judo coach certification
3. Include a copy of your USA Judo coaching certificate/credential
4. Include a copy of your USA Judo background screening (not necessary if you already have one from USJA or USJF)

After receipt of the above, we will:

1. Waive our respective coach certification fees for this one time
2. Issue you a coach certification with the same expiration date as your USA Judo certification

Upon your renewal after this initial conversion, your USJF/USJA certification will be valid for the full 4-year period.

We appreciate the time and effort that you have put forth in obtaining your coach certification and we hope that you find this accommodation a convenient and reasonable solution to your dilemma.

As mentioned in the previous announcement, we hope that that this non-reciprocation by USA Judo is a temporary situation as Jim Webb, Dr. Ron Tripp, and Neil Simon, continue to have discussions in hopes that we will be able to implement new mutually beneficial & reciprocal agreements.

Thank you very much for your continued support of American Judo, the USJA, and the USJF!

Gary S. Goltz
Chief Operating Officer
United States Judo Association, Inc.

Robert S. Fukuda
Executive Director
United States Judo Federation, Inc.



United States Judo Federation & United States Judo Association

Membership For Active Military Judo Members Serving In An Active War Zone



Both USJA and USJF would like to recognize and honor the bravery, sacrifice, and commitment demonstrated by our active military personnel who are serving in an active war zone and are also members of our judo community.

Although it is a small gesture, we would like to offer free regular membership, to any member who is currently serving in an active war zone as a token of our appreciation and admiration.

Qualifications:

I. Individual serving in any of our armed forces including:

- A. Air Force
- B. Army
- C. Coast Guard
- D. Marine Corps
- E. Navy

II. Stationed in an active war zone

III. Recommended for membership by:

- A. Dojo
- B. Yudanshakai

Duration:

- I. A full-year at a time, during deployment in an active war zone
- II. One additional year upon completion of tour in an active war zone

Please contact the USJF or USJA for additional details and forms.

Thank you very much for your continued support of the men and women of our nation's Armed Forces, American Judo, the USJA, and the USJF!

Gary S. Goltz
Chief Operating Officer
United States Judo Association, Inc.

Robert S. Fukuda
Executive Director
United States Judo Federation, Inc.



Flipping The Bird by Ronald Allan Charles

In my dream last night I was talking with Dave Parritt, one of my judo students, himself a high-ranked 7th degree black belt, and another judo friend. All judoka look alike in the dark. As we stood on a patio chatting chit, I noticed three birds — a toucan, pigeon, and blackbird — walking about, close to each other, as though conversing, mimicking us.



And then I saw it. The pigeon walked next to the toucan, inserted the top of its right wing under the toucan's left, where wing meets body, and began to lift his own wing, tilting the toucan up a bit to the toucan's right foot. The pigeon was doing judo!

The technique the pigeon used in its attempt to flip over the toucan resembled *tsuri-komi-goshi*, a mouthful to pronounce. Had there been a parrot in the avian division at our feet, it might have named the throw, as I do when teaching. But there I was, conversing with Dave, a different Parritt species, while observing these birds parroting judo.

These were not birds of the same feather that flock together, which itself was unusual. The toucan, though off-balanced, didn't fall. Throwing a bird would be difficult, because birds stabilize with their wings.

Then the blackbird put its right wing over the neck of the pigeon in what looked like *kubi-nage*, forcing down the head of the pigeon. But the pigeon didn't fall, as do human recipients of this throw. Technique was evident. However because birds lack elbows and because wings don't bend, the blackbird didn't deck the pigeon. The techniques the two birds attempted are hip throws, using the hip as a fulcrum over which to roll the opponent. Birds lack hips. I have hips and elbows. Had I thrown a bird, it would have flown through the air. Instead, I throw people.

Though the toucan didn't demonstrate judo, it might know a thing or *tou*.

And of the three birds, *toucan* do judo.

Though I wasn't about to award any rank, certainly no black belt to the blackbird, I was impressed. Flipping the bird, an expression that refers to presenting the traffic finger to drivers who upset our harmony, took on new meaning.

Tsubame gaeshi, which translates to "swallow flight reversal," is a throw that seems appropriate for all birds, not only swallows. But hip techniques? Nah. Those surpass even the flightiest imagination.

An eagle adorns our U.S. Judo Association's logo, and I bet he knows judo. But how, I wonder, had these birds learned judo? Many of my judo friends, Dave Parritt excepted, indeed are strange birds. But who had let the judo cat out of the bag?

Earlier this week I wrote an article, "Kano's Cat's Out of the Bag," about a Predator throwing an Alien with judo in the movie *Aliens versus Predators – Requiem* and about a shape-shifter throwing a vampire in the HBO series *True Blood*. I'd wondered who had taught those creatures the gentle art. But now my art has gone to the birds, the discovery of which has flipped even me out.



Dr. Ronald Allan Charles, 8th dan judo and 6th dan jujitsu, often dreams about judo. This dream was most unusual. Charles Sensei teaches judo and jujitsu in Goose Creek, SC, but not to geese or other fowl students.



New USJA Membership Form

United States Judo Association, Inc. (USJA) Individual Membership Application

Use this application to join or renew membership in the United States Judo Association - Effective 1/1/09



1. Application Date		2. Last Name		3. First Name		4. Middle Initial	
5. Address							
6. City		7. State	8. Zip Code		9. Home Phone () ()		10. Work Phone () ()
11. Fax () ()		12. Mobile () ()		13. E-Mail			
14. Date of Birth		15. Age	16. Sex <input type="checkbox"/> Female <input type="checkbox"/> Male		17. Citizenship <input type="checkbox"/> U.S.A. <input type="checkbox"/> Non-U.S.A.		18. Judo Rank & Date
19. USJA Life #		20. USJA ID #		21. Club/Dojo			
22. Mail Membership Materials to (pick one) <input type="checkbox"/> Club Coach <input type="checkbox"/> Club Secretary <input type="checkbox"/> Member							
23. Individual Membership Fees Choose Regular/Primary, Secondary, Sustaining Life Member or Booster Excess Accident Medical Insurance is included with the Regular/Primary & Sustaining Life Membership • NO INSURANCE with Secondary or Booster Secondary Membership expires with USJF/USA Judo primary expiration date • Please attach copy of primary USJF/USA Judo membership card							
Regular/Primary <input type="checkbox"/> \$45.00		Secondary <input type="checkbox"/> With USJF primary \$25.00 <input type="checkbox"/> With USA Judo primary \$25.00		Sustaining Life Members <input type="checkbox"/> \$25.00		Booster <input type="checkbox"/> \$15.00	
24. Family Membership Fees <input type="checkbox"/> 3-Members \$115.00 <input type="checkbox"/> 4-Members \$144.00 <input type="checkbox"/> 5-Members \$166.00 <input type="checkbox"/> 6-Members \$187.00 <input type="checkbox"/> 7-Members \$202.00							
25. Donations The USJA is a non-profit tax exempt charity. Depending on your tax circumstance, donations may be tax deductible. Please consult with your tax professional.							
<input type="checkbox"/> Development \$ _____				<input type="checkbox"/> Other \$ _____			
26. Cash or Check Payment Please DO NOT MAIL CASH <input type="checkbox"/> Cash <input type="checkbox"/> Check # \$20 RETURNED CHECK FEE Amount Initials		27. Credit Card Payment <input type="checkbox"/> Visa <input type="checkbox"/> MasterCard <input type="checkbox"/> Discover Name On Card _____ Issuing Bank _____ Account # _____ Exp Date _____ V-Code _____ Card Billing Address _____ Cardholder Signature _____					
28. I certify that the above information is true and I am eligible to be a member in accordance with the rules of the United States Judo Association, Inc. (USJA).							
X Signature of Applicant (Required for everyone) _____ Date _____				X Signature of Parent/Legal Guardian (for Applicants under 18) _____ Date _____			

WAIVER AND RELEASE OF LIABILITY AGREEMENT - SIGNATURE(S) REQUIRED

I, the Applicant, state that I am 18 years of age or over. In consideration of being permitted to participate in any way, I acknowledge and agree to release, waive and discharge, to the greatest extent permitted by law, United States Judo Association, Inc. (USJA) from or for all claims, demands and causes of actions or any other liabilities which may arise or be caused in whole or in part by the negligence of USJA in conjunction with or arising out of membership with USJA, and the action or lack thereof of USJA and agree that I know and understand the risks involved in the sport of Judo and do hereby assume these risks and accept the responsibility for any damages or injuries by engaging in the contact sport of Judo.

X	APPLICANT SIGNATURE (Signature required if Applicant over 18)	PRINTED NAME	DATE
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PARENTAL INDEMNIFICATION

I state that I am the parent/legal guardian of _____ (the Applicant), a minor. I agree to indemnify and hold harmless the USJA for any expenses incurred, claims made, or liabilities assessed against them as a result of any injury, death, or insufficiency of legal capacity. I consent to the Applicant's becoming a member of USJA & participating in Judo practices, clinics, & events sanctioned or sponsored by USJA.

X	PARENT/LEGAL GUARDIAN SIGNATURE (Parent/Legal Guardian signature required if Applicant under 18)	PRINTED NAME	DATE
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*** RELEASE MUST BE SIGNED FOR THIS APPLICATION TO BE VALID • MAKE A COPY FOR YOUR RECORDS ***

Submit to: USJA, 21 North Union Boulevard, Suite 200, Colorado Springs, CO 80909 • Phone: (877) 411-3409 • Fax: (719) 633-4041 • www.usja-judo.org



Induction of Devin P. Cohen as a Judge of the Civil Court of the City of New York

Kyushu Dojo's own Devin Cohen was sworn in as Civil Court Judge on January 15, 2009 at the Brooklyn Borough Hall Ceremonial Court Room. Devin P. Cohen became a judge of the Civil Court of the City of New York.

He holds the rank of Yondan and has also been an officer of New York State Judo Inc., as well as a Team manager for USA Judo. He has been in Judo for ~34 years.



Devin P. Cohen being sworn in by the Honorable Ellen M. Spodek, Judge of the Supreme Court, Kings County



Cheryl R. Cook and Devin P. Cohen



Brooklyn Borough President Markowitz congratulates Devin Cohen on his induction as Judge of the Civil Court of the City of New York

all photos this page © C.H. Halporn



Call For Recommendations For Outstanding USJA State Competitors (the form is on the USJA website)

Recommendation for Outstanding USJA Competitor for the **STATE of**

Check one category: (If kata team, submit two forms.) ☐ junior male; ☐ junior female;
☐ senior male; ☐ senior female; ☐ masters male; ☐ masters female; ☐
junior male kata; ☐ junior female kata; ☐ senior male kata; ☐ senior
female kata; ☐ mixed kata team

Name of nominee: _____
USJA membership #: _____ **Expiration date:** _____
Street address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Date of birth: _____ Age: _____ Sex: _____ Judo rank: _____
Phone #: (____) _____ E-mail address: _____

INSTRUCTIONS: Membership may be applied for along with recommendation. Juniors are 16 or younger, Seniors, 17 or older. Judoka passing 17th birthday may be considered either Junior or Senior. Awards based on total points achieved during calendar year for **either Kata or Shiai or Masters competition (specify). Do not mix shiai, kata, and masters points.** To obtain points, multiply the factor for each event by what place judoka has won (1st, 2nd, or 3rd) **AND** by number of times placing. Local Tournaments = two or more clubs competing; State = state championships; Regional = teams from two or more states; National = Jr., Sr., and Collegiate Nationals, Jr. Olympics, etc.; International = teams from two or more countries. **List names, event levels, and dates. Identify events** with letter designating level (R=Regional, L=Local, etc.). Uncontested wins count. Incomplete or illegible forms may not be accepted. Same winner two years in a row will not be considered for same category unless no other nominee. A judoka may be nominated for more than one category.

POINTS EARNED (January 1 – December 31)

Type of Tournament	1st place = 5 Points	2nd place = 3 Points	3rd place = 1 Point
Local tournament =	_____	_____	_____
State (multiply by 5) =	_____	_____	_____
Regional (multiply by 9) =	_____	_____	_____
National (multiply by 13) =	_____	_____	_____
International (multiply by 17) =	_____	_____	_____

Total Points Earned _____

NAME, DATE, AND LEVEL (L, S, R, N, or I) OF EACH TOURNAMENT (List additional events on back or extra page. Month will suffice for date.)

- | | |
|----------|-----------|
| 1. _____ | 6. _____ |
| 2. _____ | 7. _____ |
| 3. _____ | 8. _____ |
| 4. _____ | 9. _____ |
| 5. _____ | 10. _____ |

Send to:
Dr. Ronald Allan Charles, Chairman
Awards Committee
113 Camellia Road

Goose Creek, SC 29445-3418

Or e-mail to ronaldallancharles@comcast.net

(request confirmation of receipt of e-mail).

Deadline (postmark date): March 31!

☐ Send award to primary Coach?

_____/_____
Primary Coach of recommended player / Coach's club

Primary Coach's address (print clearly)

(____)_____/_____
Coach's telephone Coach's email address

Form revised December 2008



Awards Committee
Dr. Ronald Allan Charles, Chairman
113 Camellia Road
Goose Creek, SC 29445-3418
(843) 553-6702; ronaldallancharles@comcast.net



Annually we honor Outstanding Competitors from each state, Washington, D.C., and overseas. These receive recognition in our Website Hall of Fame and a beautiful certificate. In addition, all State and National Award honorees will receive during 2009, as recognition of their successes during 2008:

FREE admission to the Lone Star Judo Camp, June 8 - 12. Located in Wichita Falls, Texas, two hours' drive from Dallas/Ft. Worth and from Oklahoma City, this camp focuses on competitive judo skill improvement, with a different lead instructor each day. The congratulatory letter that accompanies the award entitles the honoree to **FREE** camp attendance, for which others pay \$150. There will be three 3-hour daily sessions Monday through Thursday and two 3-hour sessions on Friday. Meals and lodging at the MSU campus, about a mile from the training site, are available for a nominal additional fee. Camp is for all inductees to our 2008 State and National Halls of Fame, seniors as well as juniors. More information about this camp is available at www.texomajudo.com and from camp director Roy Hash at (940) 733-7330. **HONOREES NEED TO MENTION THE AWARD WHEN REGISTERING.**

REDUCED admission of 10% off camp tuition (not to be combined with any other discounts) at the Greatest Camp on Earth, held June 17 - 21 near Charlotte, North Carolina. Camp features over nine hours of class per full day with up to ten different instructors teaching simultaneously. Camp tuition includes the beautiful T-shirt but does not include accommodation or meals. Email Carl Hayes at GreatestCamp@ATT.net for more information or visit the camp website at <http://www.judocamp.com>. **HONOREES NEED TO MENTION THE AWARD WHEN REGISTERING.**

FREE admission to the Elite Technical Training Camp, June 21 - 23, following the 2009 USJA Junior Nationals scheduled for June 18 - 21. The congratulatory letter that comes with the award entitles the honoree to **FREE** day camp attendance **OR**, if the honoree prefers to stay at the Camp (which includes room and board), \$100 off the resident price of \$300. So the honoree may attend free or, if he or she prefers to sleep and eat at Camp, pay \$200 tuition instead of the \$300 that others pay. Camp will be at the Academy by the Sea in Oceanside, California, just steps from the Pacific Ocean, in a gorgeous location with nice facilities. There will be separate groups for kata, competitors, and coaches, and participants are free to move between groups. Camp is for all inductees into our 2008 State and National Halls of Fame, seniors as well as juniors. **HONOREES NEED TO BRING OR SEND A COPY OF THE CONGRATULATORY LETTER THAT COMES WITH THE AWARD WHEN REGISTERING.**

REDUCED admission to Camp Bushido West, July 19 - 26, in Sonoma, California. This judo and jujitsu camp features top-name national and international instructors and offers youth and adult programs on competition and kata, plus certification courses as coach and rank examiner. Camp is for all inductees into our 2008 State and National Halls of Fame, seniors as well as juniors. The congratulatory letter that comes with the award entitles the honoree to an \$85 discount off the **REGULAR RATE** (basically a 25% discount), making the cost for these attendees \$265 for the week. This fee includes room and board. More information about this camp is available at www.campbushido.com or from Joa Schwinn at (707) 479-4143. **HONOREES NEED TO BRING OR SEND A COPY OF THE CONGRATULATORY LETTER THAT COMES WITH THE AWARD WHEN REGISTERING.**

DISCOUNT of 40% off the retail price of any purchase (can be several items purchased at the same time) in Golden Tiger's martial arts inventory. A coupon for this one time offer will accompany the certificate mailed to each State Award honoree. Coupons to National Award honorees will be presented or mailed with their engraved plaques. For further information, check with Jenny Lee at 1-800-331-5367 or visit the website at www.goldentiger.com

We solicit recommendations from every club for each of 11 categories. If your kata nominee performs with the same partner, nominate both, since they earned the same number of points. Yours will be considered along with other nominations from your state on an objective basis, using the recommendation form point system. In case of a tie the Committee will make the selection. To be considered, recommendations must include the necessary information and meet the March 31 mailing deadline. Make recommendations based on activity for the entire calendar year. You may nominate someone not a USJA member if you include membership application and fee.

Remember, if you don't recommend anyone, you deprive your players from even entering the awards competition. Sometimes only one club in a state will submit nominations. Though such nominees may have few points, they have more than anyone else in their state, since those not submitted cannot be counted. You may nominate yourself or someone from another club.

Begin thinking now of whom you might nominate. Make certain those individuals are keeping competition records current. Tabulate points with your nominees' assistance. Simply giving the form to a judoka does not guarantee that I will receive it. Finally, watch the deadline. Some fine nominees do not receive recognition due to missing the deadline. Make certain those you nominate are current USJA members or that you send in USJA membership forms and fees along with your recommendation.



I look forward to receiving your recommendations. Thank you for participating. Those whom you recommend will be grateful to you for honoring them in this fashion. Names of those selected will be posted in our Hall of Fame on the USJA website, with the coach's name beside, recognizing coaches.

Kindly pass along this information to your colleagues so that they can participate.

Ronald Allan Charles, Chairman

Awards Committee

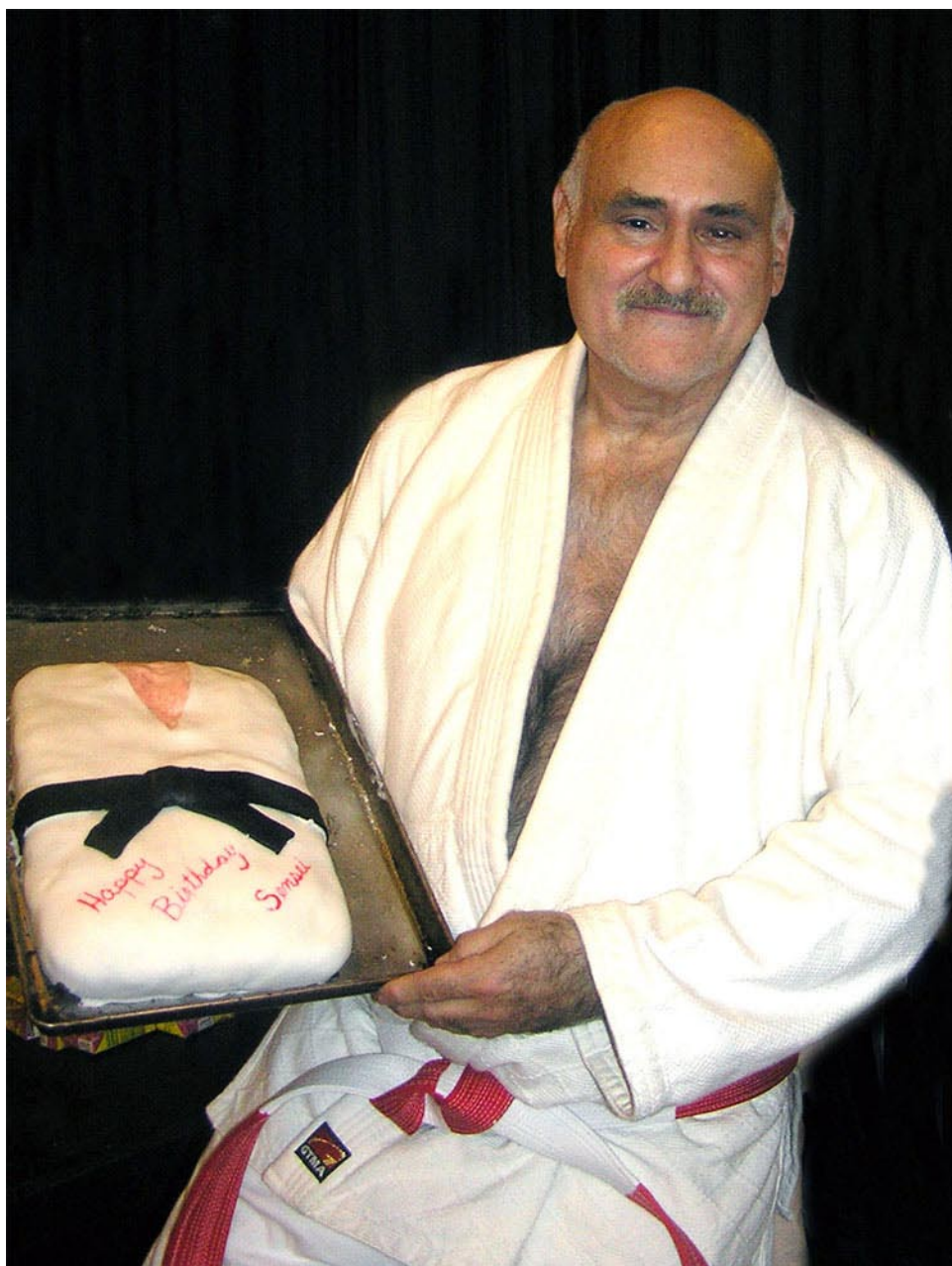
email: ronaldallancharles@msn.com (Put Awards or Judo recommendations in the subject line when sending an email)

Marc Cohen's Birthday

November 19th was my 62nd Birthday. I celebrated by inviting another club to have a inter-club and Kohaku with us.

Afterwards we partied. One of the other instructors made a judo gi cake for me.

This is a shot of me just before the cake was cut for the masses.





Toshikazu Okada & Hal Sharp Grassroots Clinic

The Goltz Judo Club held a grassroots clinic featuring Toshikazu Okada and Hal Sharp on November 22, 2008.



all photos this page courtesy of Gary Goltz



Starrett Cup

The 16th annual Starrett Cup was held in the Kingsborough Community College Gymnasium in Brooklyn, N.Y. on January 18, 2009. There were 430 players that competed at this fine shiai. Clubs were represented from all over the East Coast and even from as far away as Canada.

Parnell Legros and the members of the Starrett City Judo club and LegrosSports Judo made this event a pleasure for all to attend.

	Male	Female
Juniors (290 total)	232	58
Seniors (140 total)	113	27

The results will be posted at www.legrosports.com.
Make plans to attend next year's Starrett Cup!



all photos
in this article
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