

# SAN GABRIEL NIKKEI QUARTERLY

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*Shinto shrine purification water (temizu). Sapporo, 2010. Courtesy of Nathan Scott*

## New: Suggestion/Donation Box



Happy New Year everyone. Let's hope that this year will bring everyone prosperity and good luck. The San Gabriel Japanese Community Center now has a box where suggestions and donations can be submitted, located in the dining room behind the stage on the right side. It is encouraged for everyone to leave a suggestion or idea that will be implemented to improve the center. The suggestions you write can be about anything, it is here for the purpose of satisfying your needs here at the community center. Donations are always welcome and greatly needed as well!

## CALENDAR

### SGJCC MEETINGS

SECOND TUESDAY  
OF EVERY MONTH

- 3 | 12 | 19
- 4 | 9 | 19
- 5 | 14 | 19
- 6 | 11 | 19
- 7 | 9 | 19

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**2019 SGJCC  
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**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

I'd like to extend warm wishes to all of our members and their families as we enter the spring of a New Year. I'm truly grateful for the opportunity to serve as the President for our community center and would like to thank all those that made this year's *Shinnenkai* and *Keirokai* such a wonderful gathering.

As for me, I've been a member of our board for several years, and for two of those years acted as the 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President. I'm also a founding member of the *Nichigetsukan Dojo*, assisting Nathan Scott Sensei in the practicing of classical Japanese Swordsmanship and Aikijujutsu. I hope to be instrumental in the continued growth and development of our center, making it stronger and financially more viable in the future. My goal is to add more cultural exchanges and experiences for our membership through drawing new Japanese cultural groups to the SGJCC. For example, I've been looking in to the possibilities of establishing a new *Nihongo* class, *taiko* group and other similar activities that may serve to enrich the experiences of our members. By doing so, I believe we can attract more members and expand the ways in which we approach fund raising, as well as applying for future grants to help strengthen our center for the future generations to come.

I'd like to thank the board for giving me the opportunity to serve the center. I will do my best and will look forward to meeting the challenges with the help from our entire membership.

Yoroshiku onegaishimasu

Destrie Roy



Destrie & Maaya Roy,  
Sapporo 2010

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## NICHIGETSUKAN DOJO

### Mochi Tsuki

By Nathan Scott

Japanese swordsmen (*kenshi*) have always enjoyed pounding *mochi* as a means of testing and proving their cutting ability. It is said that a *kenshi* who demonstrates their skill at pounding *mochi* would likewise be as effective in cutting down an opponent. This pounding technique nicely compliments the skill sets taught within our dojo, and as such is the most appropriate ceremony we could think of to contribute to the SGJCC and West San Gabriel Valley community in general.

*Mochi tsuki* is the pounding of short grain glutinous sweet rice (*mochigome*) into large confectionary rice cakes (*kagami mochi*), medium size confectionary rice cakes (*komochi*), and small confectionary rice balls (*dango mochi*). *Mochi* cakes can be eaten fresh, or boiled at a later date inside New Year soup, warmed up and eaten with various toppings, or filled with some type of filling (*mochigashi*). The *mochi* rice is steamed then pounded or crushed repeatedly while inside a large mortar (*usu*) using one or more pestle (*kine*) until all the lumps are crushed out. Once the rice takes on a sticky consistency, soft *mochi* is next formed into the desired size and type.



The first phase, second phase, and the final product

The exact introduction of *mochi* within Japan is unknown, but the earliest inhabitants of the Japanese islands are known to have embraced the cultivation of rice beginning in the Yayoi period (300BD-300AD). Rice prepared into *mochi* was thought by these early islanders to be an omen of good fortune, and as such was only available to the Emperor and noblemen originally. This is likely due to the fact that in the Shinto tradition, each grain of rice symbolizes a human soul (*tamashii*), so the pounding of rice was thought to represent the joining together of millions of souls. When fresh *mochi* was stretched out, the long strands were thought to represent the promise of a long and healthy life. In fact the pounding and handling of rice is in itself still considered to be a self-purifying act in Japan.

In addition to good fortune, *mochi* is also known as a talisman for happy marriages. The traditional preparation process of “mallet pounding” (*kinetsuki*) creates an opportunity for males to show off their strength, while females reveal their cuteness through brief breaks of playful behaviour while working the *mochi* tables.

*Mochi tsuki* is most typically held just prior to the turning of the New Year. However, a “New Year’s Party” (*shinnenkai*) is also a perfect opportunity to incorporate a ceremony such as *mochi tsuki*. The earliest recorded accounts of *mochi* being used as a part of New Year festivities go back as far back as the Heian period (794-1192). *Shinnenkai* are parties in which associates gather together in order to express gratitude toward one another, while at the same time welcoming the arrival of the New Year together. Nowadays such parties are generally held among co-workers or friends sometime in January, and center around the ceremonial drinking of *sake* (usually sweet unfiltered *nigori* or *amazake*).

The current generations of enthusiasts tend to simply buy their holiday *mochi* from Japanese markets, but many of us still consider it satisfying to come together as a group to participate in the transformation of rice from its natural form to its finished form (hard, soft, hard, soft):

Dry grain → Soaked → Steamed → Crushed → Dried → Broken → Boiled

During New Year ceremonies such as *shinnenkai* and *mochi tsuki* it is traditional to come together as a group to reflect on the various events of the previous year, and at the same time to appreciate one’s own blessings. We hope attendees enjoyed our 2<sup>nd</sup> annual *mochi tsuki* performance and offerings at the SGJCC this year. We’ll look forward to making it even better next year!

## NIKKEI SENIORS CLUB



San Gabriel Nikkei Seniors Club is always happy to welcome new members. If you would like to join us at our Thursday meetings, please contact the Membership Chairperson Walt Kleinedler at (626)285-0361 or waltkleindler@hotmail.com. We can promise that you will meet new friends and have enjoyable Thursday mornings.

### First meeting of 2019

Eighty brave members ended the first 2019 meeting. It had rained all week and during the meeting on Thursday, January 17. It really felt like it was pouring “buckets”. We had our New Year Special *obento* lunch. Chico Iguchi and Elena De La Cruz provided delicious deserts. Several members were informed that other fellow members were unable to drive in the bad weather and asked them to pick-up their *obento* to have it delivered to them instead. A special thank you to members who helped those who were unable to receive their *obento* lunches in person. Everyone enjoyed the special *obento* lunch and we were very happy to see everyone well during the busy holidays.

## Las Vegas Trips

A trip to Las Vegas is planned for March 12-14 (Tuesday - Thursday). To date, 53 members and friends have signed-up and are ready to try their luck at the casinos. Another trip is planned during April 22-24 (Monday - Wednesday). If you are interested in joining the group to have fun in Las Vegas or wish for further information, please contact Las Vegas Chairperson Jack Miyagawa at (626) 571-2071 or Tee Murashige (626)795-1739.



## 2018 Christmas Party

On December 14<sup>th</sup>, one hundred fourteen members and guests celebrated the holiday season in the Lakeview Room of Almansor Court with a delicious lunch, entertainment and many, many door prizes. It was a wonderful opportunity to get together with old friends and make new ones. The Christmas menu consisted of spinach salad with cranberries and candied walnuts, choice of blackened salmon with scallops or roasted prime rib of beef, potatoes, seasonal vegetables, and red velvet cake. Joy Yogi led the Ukulele Group with a Sing-A-Long and Janice Uba led the Line Dancers. We also played numerous Bingo games.

Thank you to the many members who contributed their time and talents to help make our Christmas Party a big success: Steve Furogawa, Stan Yamada, Mariko Garrett, Chico Iguchi, Carmen Mochizuki, Glenn Yoshoda, Judy Shima, Flo Miyagawa, Sue Yamada, Janice Uba, Jack Miyagawa, Les Shima, Henry Watanabe, Mino Nakatani, Larry Nakatani, Karen Nakamura, Carolyn Watanabe, and Janet Iwata. A special thank you to the many donors for the door prizes: NobieTakayama, Gladys Itamura, Miyako Murata, Tee Murashige, Ken and Nancy Shitara, Ko Nakamura, Al Horibe, Jim's Bakery, Don's Body Shop, San Gabriel Nursery, and an anonymous member.

—Submitted by Irene Higahara, Corresponding Secretary

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## 2019 NIKKEI SENIOR CABINET MEMBERS

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NOBIE TAKAYAMA

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LARRY NAKAMURA

### Historian

STEVE FUROGAWA

### Parliamentarian & Advisor (Ex-Officio)

HIRO KUSUMOTO

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## SAN GABRIEL JUDO

### Jason Morris Clinic, Winter Nationals, End of the Year Awards and New Head Coaches



On December 7, 2018, we have the pleasure of hosting a clinic by 4x Olympian, Olympic Silver Medalist Jason Morris at San Gabriel Judo Dojo. Sensei Morris is one of the best American Judokas of all time, as a competitor and as a coach. Sensei Morris, along with his wife Sensei Teri Takemori, daughters, Dani & Randi and student Sensei Gina, shared a small dose of the Jason Morris Judo Center experience with our Dojo. Sensei Morris demonstrated his famous “Sticky Foot” technique. Sensei Dave Faulkner from Arizona, Sensei Morris’s greatest rival, also came by the clinic. It was a great night of Judo. Thank you Sensei Morris, Sensei Teri, and Sensei Gina.

### 2018 Judo Winter Nationals

Following the great clinic, our judokas competed in the 2018 Judo Winter Nationals at Azusa Pacific University on Saturday, December 8, 2018. This was one of the biggest tournaments in our own backyard, with nearly 840 competitors coming from across the country (Hawaii, New York, North Carolina, Texas, Arizona and Nevada) as well as a team from Tahiti and a team from Australia plus several Individuals from Kazakhstan, Mongolia, Japan, Korea and Brazil. The Ippons of the Day were Nick Kiyoshi Saito’s perfectly executed Yoko Guruma and Taylor Tan’s high flying Reverse Seoinage.

Congratulations to our competitors!!! We are so proud of all of you.

#### Gold Medalists:

- JaRon Phan
- Meena Phan
- Daniella Manibog
- Avery Kadohiro
- Tyler Miller
- Mikel David Uyemura
- Joey Kamei



#### Silver Medalists:

- Anastasia Ananiades
- Audrey Tamanaha
- Taylor Tan

#### Bronze Medalists:

- Sydney Moon
- Aya Yoshitake
- Tyler Higashi
- Jaon Sakuda

Thank you to our coaches - Sensei Aaron Kunihiro, Taizo Chad Sasaki, Sensei Mike Noriega, Sensei Al Shimamoto, Sensei Ken Sakuda, Sensei Mako Yoshitake, Sensei Brent Kataoka, and Sensei Toshi Irie.

### **San Gabriel Judo Annual End of the Year Awards**

End of the Year Awards were given during our annual holiday party on December 21, 2018. Big Kudos to our 2018 award recipients. It had been an amazing 2018 for the dojo.

#### **Kawai Sensei Most Outstanding Judoka Award**

- Jerilyn Montejo (Silver Medalist, Pan American Championships; Gold Medalist, Junior Olympics)
- Kyle Sakuda (PanAm Team Member; Gold Medalist, Junior Olympics)

#### **Hiraoka Sensei Best Technique Award**

- Daniella Manibog
- Jason Montejo

#### **Tashima Sensei Fighting Spirt Award**

- Waverly Tamanaha
- Logan Tan

#### **Noriega Sensei Jundo Seisho Award**

- Malia Manibog
- Nathan See

#### **San Gabriel Dojo All-Sensei Award**

- Adriana McDaniel
- Joey Kamei

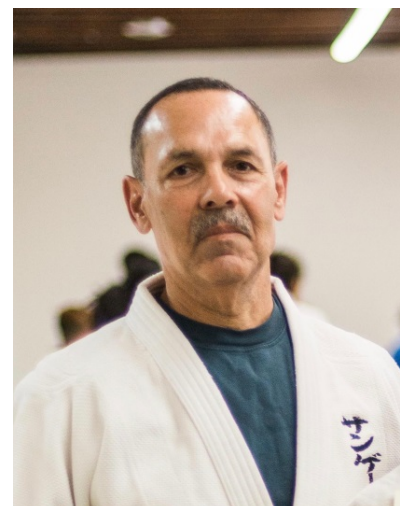


\*Not Pictured: Kyle Sakuda, Nathan See and Adriana McDaniel

### **New Head Coaches**

It was a great sadness to the dojo that Sensei Mike Noriega announced his retirement from head coach. We wish him the best as he embarks on new adventures with his grandkids and spends time with his wife. We will miss Sensei Mike greatly, but know that he will still serve on the San Gabriel Judo Board and be on the mat whenever he has the time. See you on the mat.

We are pleased to announce that Sensei Aaron Kunihiro and Sensei Taizo Chad Sasaki are taking over as our new head coaches. Here's to a great 2019.

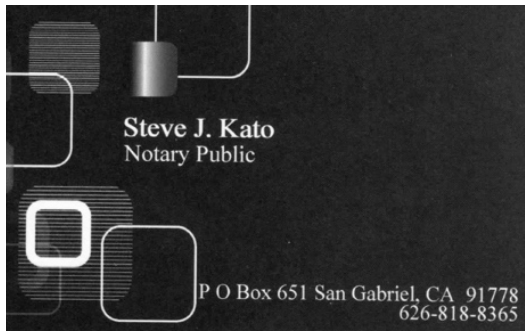


Seniors who wish to renew their **Nikkei Seniors Club** memberships for 2019, new membership application forms are **not** required.  
**THE 2019 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM YOU SEE IN THIS BULLETIN IS NOT FOR RENEWING MEMBERS**

Nikkei Senior membership dues are \$50 for singles and \$75 for couples. Of these membership dues, \$20 per member stays in the Nikkei Seniors treasury and \$30 for singles and \$35 for couples is the discounted membership dues to the San Gabriel Japanese Community Center, which is required.

Please pay with one check payable to **San Gabriel Nikkei Seniors Club** or **SGNS Club** and send your check to Walt Kleinedler, 9116 Duffy St., Temple City, CA 91780 or give it to me at one of our January or February meetings. Membership renewal season is from January 1, 2019 through the second Thursday of February - which in this case is February 14, 2019.

Seniors who would like to join our San Gabriel Nikkei Seniors Club and are 55 years of age or older and are of Japanese ancestry or are married to someone who is, please call Walt Kleinedler at (626) 285-0361 and I will gladly send you an application for our club.



**Steve J. Kato**  
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**ORGANIZATION MEETING SCHEDULES**

<b>San Gabriel Judo Dojo</b> Modern Japanese grappling martial art & sport	<b>Tuesdays &amp; Fridays</b> 6:30pm-9:00pm	<b>Richie Endow</b> sangabrieljudo@gmail.com
<b>Nikkei Seniors (Keirokai)</b> Senior citizen club	<b>Thursdays</b> 10:00am-1:00pm	<b>Stan Yamada</b> (909) 393-9855
<b>Sogetsu Ikebana</b> Traditional Japanese flower arranging	<b>2nd &amp; 4th Mondays</b> 7:00pm-9:00pm	<b>Kaz Kitajima</b> (626) 333-3039
<b>Nichigetsukan Koryu Dojo</b> Classical Japanese grappling and swordsmanship	<b>Thursdays</b> 7:00pm-10:00pm <b>Saturdays</b> 10:00am-2:00pm	<b>Nathan Scott</b> (323) 821-8730
<b>Where Eagles Soar</b> A non-profit Christian fellowship	<b>Sundays</b> 10:00am-11:30am	<b>Pastor Bob Lona</b> (626) 574-7107
<b>Shodo Academy of America</b> Japanese art of classical brush calligraphy	<b>1st &amp; 3rd Sundays</b> 1:00pm-2:30pm	<b>Yasoji Matsuoka</b> (626) 201-9242
<b>Boy Scouts of America, SGJCC Troop</b> Scouting youth organization	<b>2nd &amp; 4th Sundays</b> 6:00pm-8:00pm	<b>George Ocampo</b> (213) 793-140
<b>Japanese Karate Association of Los Angeles</b> Modern Japanese self-defense martial art & sport	<b>Wednesdays</b> 6:30pm-8:30pm <b>Saturdays</b> 5:00pm-7:30pm	<b>Harada Yoshiaki</b> (626) 274-2579



## 2019 FACILITY USAGE FEES

### AFFILIATE GROUP USAGE RATES

AFFILIATE GROUPS OF 1 TO 15 MEMBERS - \$45 PER DAY FEE

AFFILIATE GROUPS OF 16 OR MORE MEMBERS - \$50 PER DAY FEE

### ALL PRE-SCHEDULED DAYS MUST BE PAID FOR

The center must charge and collect usage fees for all pre-scheduled days/time slots. For example, if your affiliated group has prescheduled every Monday at 10:00 am to 12:00 pm, those days must be paid for regardless of if a holiday lands on that day or your group decides not to meet.

### HALL RENTAL FEE

\$600 (plus \$100 cleaning deposit) - NON-MEMBERS

\$500 (plus \$100 cleaning deposit) - MEMBERS

Fee includes use of the entire facility for a maximum of 8 hours between 9:00 am & 10:00 pm.

## 2019 SGJCC Membership Dues

Family - \$60 Annual Fee

Individual - \$50 Annual Fee

### SGJCC 2019 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

ANNUAL FAMILY MEMBERSHIP - \$60.00 | ANNUAL SINGLE MEMBERSHIP - \$50.00

PLEASE MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO: SAN GABRIEL JAPANESE COMMUNITY CENTER  
(PLEASE DO NOT SEND CASH - WE WILL NOT BE RESPONSIBLE IF LOST)

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

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ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

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TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

GROUP AFFILIATION \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED \_\_\_\_\_ DONATION \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ PLEASE CHECK IF OVER 80 YEARS OLD AND WOULD LIKE KEIRO KAI INFO

[\\*NIKKEI SENIOR MEMBERS. PLEASE PAY SGJCC MEMBERSHIP DUES THROUGH NIKKEI SENIORS](#)

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## ADVERTISING APPLICATION

\$10 PER ISSUE | \$40 PER YEAR

### BUSINESS NAME & CONTACT INFORMATION

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