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**Tomodachi**

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

Jan 4—Feb 11

M/M Francis Chang	\$ 100
Edna Kurihara	85
Helen Hikiji	113.38
Harriet Yamada	80.44
Glenn Yata	200
M/M George Kato	100
M/M P Gin	50
M/M Stanley Chow	100
M/M Ronald Yorizane	100
M/M Sho Kitayama	100
Norwalk Nikkei Seniors	2000

Thank you for your kind generosity and continuing support.



**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

Hi Everyone!

Attention all graduating HS seniors! We are now accepting applications for the NERIO/SEJSCC Scholarships. The deadline for filing the Scholarship application is March 18, 2011. The form will be available on the SEJSCC website ([SEJSCC.org](http://SEJSCC.org)). Be sure to check below for the NYS scholarships also. The scholarships will be presented at the annual Recognition Dinner and Awards on April 16, 2011. Nerio/SEJSCC Scholarship winners must be present at the dinner to receive their award.

Anyone who would like to reserve the Center for special events (SEYO basketball, Special events within and outside, etc.) must get in touch with Toshi Teramoto for an application. Return the completed application to Toshi, and the Board of Directors will then review the request.

Just another reminder that the SEJSCC is a NO SMOKING facility! The Center would like everyone to abide by the rules. Please be considerate of our neighbors and pick up your cigarette butts outside of the Center.

This year the Center clean up will not be held on the last weekend of April due to Easter Sunday. Rather the cleanup will be held on the following Sunday, May 1st from 9:00 to 12 noon. The Center would like several volunteers from each organization to help out. Any help will be greatly appreciated. Show your support for the Center and come join us. I hope to see you there.

Richard Shinomoto

**RECOGNITION DINNER & AWARDS—APRIL 16**

Keep April 16th open and join us at our annual Recognition Dinner and Awards night! This year we are honoring Hy Shishino and Megumi Domen, two exceptional people who have long dedicated their time and efforts to our community center functions and requirements. You know Hy as our President for many years and taking care of Center needs from plumbing problems to buying our supplies. Megumi Domen is our Kendo lady who often dons the chef's cap for many of our dinner events and oversees the social requirements whenever Kendo has an event for the southern California chapters at SEJSCC which seems weekly. We will also honor our outstanding scholarship recipients. Come and applaud these outstanding people. It will be an enjoyable and gratifying evening. An island style dinner will be served which includes Chinese Chicken Salad, Inari Sushi, Miso Green Beans, Honey Pineapple Chicken, Kalua Pork, Steam Rice and Dessert. Wonderful entertainment will follow ending with raffle and door prizes. Tickets are available from any club representatives or call Richard Shinomoto at 562.754.8582 or call our Center 562.863.5996 and leave your name and phone number. Please see our ad on page 5 for further details.

**SCHOLARSHIPS FOR HS GRADUATES**

Attention Graduating High School Seniors !

Applications for our Center NERIO/SEJSCC Scholarships and NYS (Norwalk Youth Sports) Scholarships are available on respective websites: [www.SEJSCC.org](http://www.SEJSCC.org) and [www.norwalkyouthsports.org](http://www.norwalkyouthsports.org) for qualified seniors. You are encouraged to apply. The mailing deadline for NERIO/SEJSCC scholarships is March 18th and for the NYS scholarship is March 26. Be complete with your answers including community service work and cultural endeavors. Awards will be announced at the Annual Recognition Dinner & Awards night. Winners for the NERIO/SEJSCC must be present at the Recognition Dinner and Awards night to receive their awards. Good Luck!

**SEJSCC Silent Alarm System**

Our Center's new silent alarm system is installed and members are currently receiving "code cards" for entry. Orientations informing the procedures on how to use these cards for entry and exit including safeguards have been given to most of our organizations. The membership will be informed when the system will be up and running.

## HIKARI TAIKO

Mary Jane Mayeda

The beginning of each year, we celebrate the New Year. The Japanese, Chinese, Vietnamese plus other Asians usually celebrate and have from small to extravagant events.

We are doing two Chinese new year events. One is our annual China Town 5-10K run event in which we play for the runners mid way to give them energy and endurance to finish the race. We have been doing this race for the past 11 years now.

The other one is also to celebrate Chinese new year but through the Vietnamese community in Westminster. They also have the dragon dances and lots of firecrackers to scare away evil spirits.

Both are at the beginning of February.

We also have a performance for the cub scouts in Irvine for their annual "rank ceremony".

Beginning taiko class will start on March 6<sup>th</sup>. Class will be held every Sunday from 12:15 pm to 1:15 pm.

Those who have always wanted to try taiko out, please come out and try it. From 13 years to 80 years....don't be shy....we teach nice and slow. It's good exercise and lots of fun. First class is free and no obligation.

Mary Jane – [mjm hikari@aol.com](mailto:mjm hikari@aol.com) or 562-924-1454.



Chinese New Year's celebration in Westminster.

## GAKUEN NEWS

Kimie Matsumoto

Students from all classes participated in the school-wide nengajo contest. Please view their work on the bulletin boards in the hallway. The theme for this year is the year of the Tiger. Everyone voted for the best one in their age division. Winners were awarded prizes at the New Year Party. The families enjoyed the New Year party with entertainment by the students and teachers who sang and danced. The highlight of the evening was the "Sorani Bushi" performed by students. Parents and guests also joined in the fun.

On February 5th, Gakuen students observed Setsubun by eating the number of beans equal to their age for good luck. The students learned about the tradition of getting rid of bad luck by throwing roasted soy bean and bringing good fortune into their homes.

On February 26th, the Gakuen will celebrate Hinamatsuri (Doll Festival/Girl's Day). Traditionally the festival is held on March 3rd. The students will be viewing the doll display and listening to a presentation. Students will also enjoy treats provided by the PTA.

There will be no school February 19th. All teachers will attend a workshop given by Hiroko Kataoka sensei from CSULB.



Everyone enjoyed dancing the "Sorani Bushi" at Gakuen's New Years Party.



### SEJSC BOARD MEMBERS

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

**Jim Niiro**  
**George Kato**  
**Linda Kusuda**  
**Mary Iwami**  
**Kimie Matsumoto**  
**Fred Matsumoto**  
**Mas Onoda**  
**Richard Shinomoto**  
**Hy Shishino**  
**Tosh Teramoto**  
**Bob Yamada**  
**Carrie Nakatani Wong**  
**Marvin Kobayashi**

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## NORWALK YOUTH SPORTS

Carrie Nakatani

It is the end of the winter season for our junior teams. The time has just flown by and it seems like we just started playing last week! Our senior teams will begin their spring league the first Sunday in March. NYS families, just a reminder, mark your calendars – the junior banquet will be held on Saturday, March 19th at our Community Center. For those of you who have never attended, it is a fun-filled night for the players and their families. The pee wee teams will be gathering in the dojo and the older teams will be in the gym.

Attention graduating high school seniors, it is time to start applying for scholarships. Please see your coach or team rep for more information. Remember, NYS will be hosting bingo dinner for the months of March and April. Please come out and support our Community Center—have a nice dinner and then stay and play bingo.

Good luck to our senior teams. We'll let everyone know next issue how our junior teams did this season.



Hot Shots continue to play hard.

## NORWALK JUDO DOJO

Chris Fukuma

Norwalk Judo has had a record year in 2010 with our membership at 100 (3rd largest membership in Southern California after Sawtelle and Gardena). With our recent surge in membership, we had an impressive increase in the number of competitors at local tournaments. We had 17 competitors to the Junior Nationals in UC Irvine last July coming back with 3 medals by Kay Sugahara, Jason Sams and Darwin Juan. Last December at the Norwalk Dojo Christmas party, our dojo has awarded the following individuals for their outstanding achievements:

Award recipients:	Yonen (-12 yrs)	Shonen (13-16yrs)	Seinen (17+ yrs)
Sportsmanship	Joseph Chavez	Louis Zhang	Gabriel Benitez
Most Improved	Kay Sugahara	Derek Hsu	Darwin Juan
Best Tournament	Jason Sam	Ismael Sakez	Emilio Zamorano
Best Technique	Hudson Tan	Alan Lee	Wayne Tam

Following the Christmas Dinner, we had our first-ever Norwalk Dojo New Year's Eve sleepover at the dojo. Here, we spent the evening playing games, eating, camping and ringing in the new year with students, parents and senseis until the morning. We are anticipating another great year in 2011.

Following are results from the recent tournaments:

Mojica Invitational: 1st: Alan lee, Kyle Morishima, 2nd Kay Sugahara, 3rd Emilio Zamorano

San Fernando Invitational: 2nd Kay Sugahara, 3rd Emilio Zamorano

West Covina Invitational: 2nd Billy Matsubara, Jason Sams, 3rd Conor Uyekawa, Emilio Zamorano

We are sending 17 competitors this month from Norwalk to the San Jose Sensei Memorial Tournament (the largest Tournament on the West Coast with 700 competitors from across the US). This will be our dojo's first road trip for a competition in recent years and we wish them good luck!

We are now accepting new applicants on the first Friday of every month. We practice every Tuesday from 7-8:30 pm, Fridays from 7-9 pm.

For details, please go to [www.norwalkjudo.com](http://www.norwalkjudo.com)



Nanka Fall Team Tournament l-r: Hunter Rodriguez, Tanner Sonoda, Conor Yuekawa, Joseph Chavez. 2nd Row: Joshua Chen, Troy Nam, Brandon Som, Albert Lee, Trevor Sonoda.



Norwalk students, parents and senseis at Nanka Novice Tournament.



Nanka Novice Tournament l-r (1st Row) Trevor Sonoda, Tanner Sakoda, (2nd Row) Kay Sugahara, (3rd Row) Emilio Zamorano, Ismael Sakez.

# NORWALK KENDO DOJO

January 7th was our first practice of 2011, and we invited all members of Southern California Kendo Federation (SCKF) to help us ring in the new year. Many thanks to our dojo moms for preparing their traditional first-keiko feast, which as usual included fresh mochi and zenzai, among other delicacies. Everything was so good!

Our first tournament of the year was the triennial Kubota memorial Tournament on January 30th, held to honor one of the pioneering senseis of SCKF. Congratulations to Yoon Brian for taking 3rd place in the 1-2 dan division, and to Kodama Jean for taking 1st place in the senior division.

Many thanks to Ralutin Dennis sensei for taking our dojo group photo on February 11th. See the dojo website archives for links. Unfortunately, only a fraction of our members could make it for the second shoot, which had to be rescheduled because several senseis could not attend the first one, but it came out well anyway.

Each year Norwalk Dojo helps sponsor two outstanding kenshi to go to Canada to represent us at the Stevenston Kendo Tournament.



This year we selected two yudansha: Kariya Yoshihiro and Yoon Brian. Thank you for your dedication and good examples, and good luck in Stevenston on February 19th.

In 2011, we will continue to host federation practices for Team SCKF as they prepare for the all United States Kendo Championships, which will be held in Atlanta this August. Good luck to team members, Kim Esther and Yoon Courtney, and to Kim John who was selected for the youth program!

As we are also hosting Team USA practices for next year's World Kendo Championships in Italy, we will be very, very busy this year, and we would like to thank all Center members for your support and understanding.

Norwalk Kendo Dojo practices Mondays from 7:00 to 8:30 pm and Fridays from 7:30 to 10:00 pm. New members are welcome; beginners are accepted on the first

Friday practice of each odd month. The iaido group practices from 9 to 10 pm on Mondays; iaido beginners are accepted in January, April and July. For information about Norwalk Dojo, including upcoming and past events as well as how to join, please see the dojo website at <http://www.eanet.com/norwalk>, or send email to [norwalkkendo@gmail.com](mailto:norwalkkendo@gmail.com).

**Reminder.....**

Hosted by: **Norwalk Youth Sports**

**BINGO**  
**March 5 and**  
**April 2, Sat.**  
**6:30 pm**

Serving March 5: *Teriyaki Chicken , macaroni salad, rice, cabbage ramen.*  
 April 2: *Mochi ko Chicken, Vegetable chow mein, salad, rice.*  
 Dinners served at 6 pm.

\$5 per card all night, \$20 prize each game, last game coverall \$250!

Join us for our ANNUAL

**CENTER CLEAN-UP DAY**

**MAY 1 —Sunday**

**9 am to 12 Noon**



Bring your gloves, buckets and energy to tackle our yard and Center.

**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 562.926.2536
- Shuji (Calligraphy):** Matsumoto Sensei 714.827.1062
- Ikebana (Flower Arrgmt):** Ogawa Sensei 714.893.1245
- Guitar Class:** Yuji Hata 562.695.1908
- Norwalk Youth Sports:** Rich Tamaki [rytamaki@yahoo.com](mailto:rytamaki@yahoo.com)
- Kendo:** Jean Kodama Sensei email: [norwalkkendo@gmail.com](mailto:norwalkkendo@gmail.com)
- Karate:** Brock Nishimura 714.826.9128
- Norwalk Karaoke Club:** Ed Korin 714.870.1013
- Judo:** Jim Glick 714.315.8503

- Hikari Taiko:** Mary Jane Mayeda 562.924.1454
- Norwalk Nikkei Seniors:** Toby Fusato 562.860.7368
- Tanden/Yoga Class:** Mrs. Koyasu 562.865.9652
- Japanese Classical Dance:** Akemi Jensen 562.691.2764
- Nawahine 'O Kawena:** Karen Toyoshiba 562.949.0203
- Hawaiian Karaoke Club:** Leslie Goshi 323.722.7229
- Ukulele Class:** Kamaki Keawe Call Karen: 562.949.0203
- Norwalk Dance Club:** Edna Kurihara 714.847.1173



## NORWALK DANCE CLUB

Rosie San Miguel

Hosting the first social of the New Year were Helen Hikiji and Karen Chow. Always with a friendly disposition and ready with their refreshments, the menu consisted of chili with mini sausages served with rice, steamed broccoli and carrots with a side of ranch dressing for dipping and slice of cool refreshing lime jello with crushed pineapples. The following were gracious to prepare the delicious jello; a special thanks to Helen, Karen Edna Kurihara and Rosie San Miguel. Generally, getting the food ready is not a problem, but when extra hands are available at serving time the lines move quickly. The extra kitchen crew consisted of Geoff Chow, Ben San Miguel and Harriet Yamada.

Shortly after guests had some time to socialize at their tables and enjoy their food, Edna Kurihara led two line dances. The first was Rum and Coco Cola, a popular song of the forties, followed by an old time favorite, the Circle Waltz. Always organized and energetic, Edna's choices of line dances makes this segment of the evening enjoyable and not much effort is required to entice line dancers to step up and join the rhythm and beat of the dances.

Using his signature list of dances with pencils made available to cross off each completed dance, DJ Yuso Kurihara, has prioritized his music

to eliminate any guess-work of dances to follow. This is a unique method. For the 73 attending the winter social and all other socials, it seems that this facilitates the flow so well, especially, for anticipating favorite dances. The Management Committee welcomes you to attend the February 26th social. The article for this social will appear in the next newsletter edition.



NDC's New Years Eve partiers ringing in the 2011 year!  
(No photo space in January Tomodachi so printing it here)

## NORWALK NIKKEI SENIORS

About 60 Seniors enjoyed Shinenenkai lunch buffet on Jan. 25 at the La Palma VIP restaurant. The food was very good, all freshly made, and members leisurely feasted on variety of choices. Even the Pho soup was tasty if you didn't put too much greens like cilantro in it.

Comments heard was that they would go back to VIP again.

Seniors hosted the February Center bingo serving spaghetti dinner. Last year everyone enjoyed Geoff Chow's sauce so, of course, he was asked to don the chef's hat again. Last year there were no leftovers to sell so we increased the ingredients however, again, no leftovers.

That was positive.

Our Vegas enthusiasts joined the Long Beach community center group on Feb. 1-3 and had a swell time. Just remember if you are interested, they go every other month so contact Toby Fusato (562.860.7368) to reserve a seat.

At the Feb. 8th meeting, Seniors voted to donate \$2000 to the Center. With the boutique sales during carnival time we accumulated sufficient balance to make this donation.

We wish our friends who are recovering from illness and surgeries that they would be back with us soon.



### The annual Recognition Dinner and Awards Night



APRIL 16 - Saturday

5:30 Social Hour, 6:30 Dinner

Service and Scholarship Awards, Entertainment,  
Prizes and Raffle Drawings and Door Prizes

*Join us to applaud our honorees and enjoy the evening starting with a Island Style Dinner*

Contact any club rep for tickets or call 562.863.5996 and leave your name and address requesting dinner tickets or contact Richard Shinomoto — Send in your ticket stubs and check by April 8.

Tickets: \$25 adult (\$10 tax deductible) \$10 student, \$5 child under 12

For info call Richard Shinomoto 562.754.8582

*Graduating  
High School  
Seniors ....  
remember to apply  
for the*

**Nerio/SEJSCC  
and NYS**

**Scholarships!!**

*check front page for info.*



(562) 924-7769

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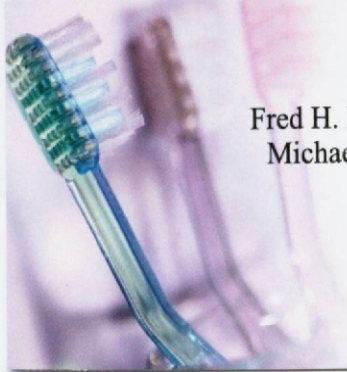
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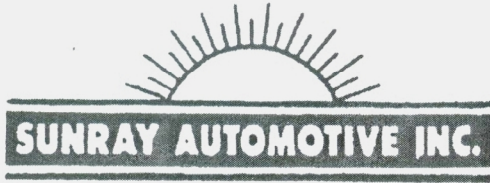
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CALENDAR		
March		
2	Operating Bd Mtg	7:00
5	Monthly Bingo	6:30 pm
9	Center Bd Mtg	6:30 pm
18	NERIO/SEJSCC Scholarship Application Deadline	
19	NYS Jr. Basketball Banquet	
26	NYS Scholarship Application Deadline	
26	NDC Spring Fling Social	
April		
2	Monthly Bingo	6:30 pm
6	Operating Bd Mtg	7 pm
13	Center Bd Mtg	6:30 pm
16	Recognition Dinner & Awards	
23	NDC Western Social	
May		
1	Center Clean-up Day	9 to Noon
7	Monthly Bingo	6:30 pm
4	Operating Bd Mtg	7 pm
11	Center Bd Mtg	6:30 pm
28	NDC South of Border Social	
June		
1	Operating Bd Mtg	7 pm
4	Monthly Bingo	6:30 pm
8	Center Bd Mtg	6:30 pm
25	NDC Social	
July 23 & 24 Cultural Festival		



NDC group and friends having fun decorating gym for New Years Eve Dinner Dance.



How long do I hang on to these? asks George.