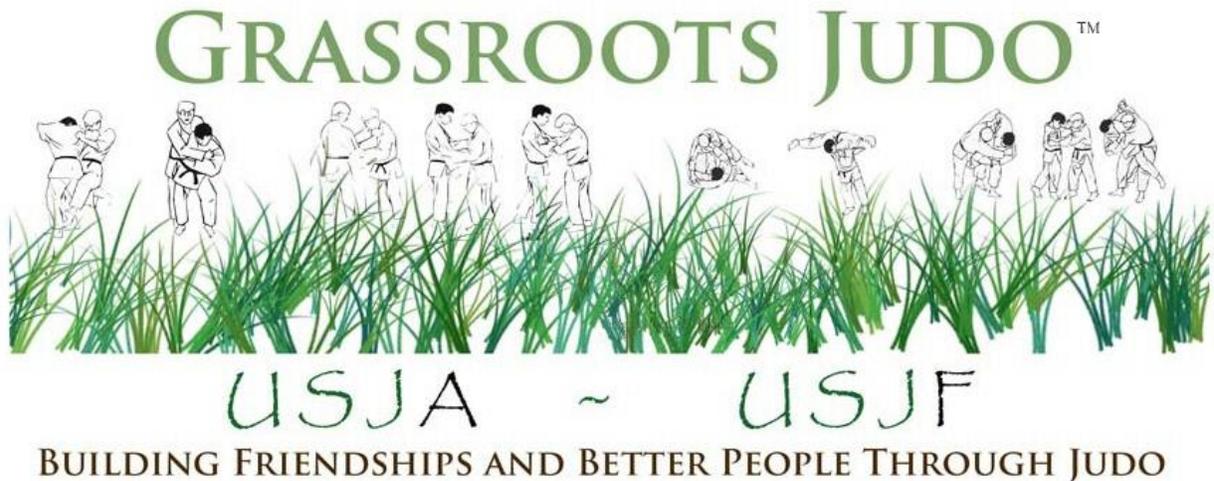


**A Message from Hayward Nishioka...**

***Why can't we just all get along?***



A lot has happened to Nanka in over the last decade. This is tied to the change of the our NGB's mission from focusing on managing our international elite competitors and to taking over Grassroots Judo™ which is the trademarked domain of the USJF and USJA.



USA Judo (USAJ) is not the same entity as when Frank Fullerton was running the show. They have been shortchanging the two larger judo organizations for quite some time now. Both the USJF and USJA have gone from having 10,000+ members to slightly less than 7,000 while USAJ is now bosting of their membership reaching an all-time high of nearly 12,000.

USA Judo's initiatives in our area in just the last year include holding both their Senior Nationals and their Junior Olympics out here. And now starting a free judo program in Los Angeles using a grant from the IJF. These initiatives were all done without ever consulting Nanka, the USJF or the USJA. Can you imagine the chasm USAJ would have if the Nanka, the USJF / USJA were developing their own elite players and sending them to international tournaments as if it was our primary focus, while at the same time asking USAJ to help pay for it?

The lack of goal congruency between Judo's NGB and their partner, the Grassroots Judo™ Organizations has had a detrimental effects on Nanka and judo in our area. It's as if USAJ is saying you guys are so bad what you're doing that we're going to get into your business and show you how to do it because we can do it so much better than you. And they have 0% success record at producing medalists which is their real mission! Did any of the Olympic Medals in the last several Olympics come from USAJ or did they all come from the Pedro, San Jose State, or Morris camps?

USAJ has been using their leverage with the USOC's to pilfered our members by making our players have to join them to enter their national point events. And shouldn't the free mats and gis from the IJF be passed onto the real Grassroots Judo™ Organizations? The current USAJ American Judo Development Model (AJDM) is yet another example of using the USJF and USJA which have had their own well developed coach programs since the early 1990's (including published books), to bring them up to our standard!

Nanka is at the front line of this incursion into Grassroots Judo™ by our NGB. USAJ is targeting our area because we are rich with possibilities. Our judo health is quite evident and If they successfully kill us off, do you think they could do as good a job? I doubt it, as they are not an inclusive organization. They don't really have a representative body with a voice or a vote. They don't really care about judokas. In fact their two top executives are not even in judo. They are 'so called' business people.

Nanka's recent vote to take over the Winter Nationals® is our way of trying to make up for this shortfall. The monies made from our efforts are intended to be used to improve our Nanka Judo Members. Read below and you'll get a cultural/historical civics lesson.

### **Nanka Think Tank September 2019**

- 1. How did we get started? 2. How did we get bigger and now what is the problem?**
- 3. What should we do in Nanka? 4. What's holding us up? 5. Things we need to do.**

**1. How did we get started?** The earliest written accounts of judo in our area can be found in "Fighting Spirit Judo in Southern California, 1915 – 1930" by Uchima and Kobayashi, Midori Books. Before that time, judo's early introduction to the United States had an illustrious start around 1903, as it was taught to US President Theodore Roosevelt in the White House no less, by Yoshitsugu Yamashita, later to become the very first 10th dan. As for its introduction to the American public this did not occur till the 1920's. Even so, this was on a very limited basis. Most of the practice of judo was basically centered in communities of Japanese who had migrated to the United States during the Meiji (1868-1912) and Taisho era (1912- 1926) era in hopes of bettering their living conditions.

These first immigrants were farmers, craftsmen, laborers, and minor merchants. They had to be a tough breed of pioneer quality to journey to a foreign land, not knowing its language, laws, or customs. Their solace here was in gathering together in communities and engaging in familiar cultural activities that strengthened not only their bonds of friendship but of their own bodies and spirits. Their main gathering places were communities of small businesses, churches (Buddhist and Christians), Japanese Schools, and Japanese Cultural centers. The last one being mentioned still exists to this day and acts as the backbone of our judo organization in Southern California, Nanka Judo.

One has to remember that during this period judo was in its infancy. It had only been founded in 1882 by its young upstart 22 year-old founder, Jigoro Kano. Kodokan Judo's greatest early momentum came as it won the 1886 Police sponsored Jujitsu tournament to decide which style would be adopted by the Police department.

By 1903 judo was only 21 years old. In the Meiji and Taisho era, judo was barely becoming recognized as a Japanese physical education activity even in an emerging Japan. The main difference between jujitsu and judo being philosophical in its basis. Jujitsu, when translated, means gentle art, while judo means gentle way, emphasizing that judo was not just a means of offense and defense, but that its practice would yield a better existence when practiced correctly.

By the mid-1920s judo was being practiced in Japanese communities on the West Coast, particularly Seattle, WA, and Los Angeles CA. The first known US Dojo is still standing in Seattle Washington, founded in 1928.

Our first dojo seems to have been in the Little Tokyo area where the Main LA Police Station now stands. It was called Rafu Dojo and was founded by Tokugoro Ito sometime around 1915. Other dojos soon followed, Seinan, Gardena, Moneta, San Pedro (Terminal Island), Hollywood, Sawtelle, Palos Verdes, Venice, OCBC, San Fernando, Norwalk, San Gabriel, Valley Institute, almost all in Japanese Community Centers. In March of 1930 Jigoro Kano approved the establishment of Nanka Yudanshakai on the condition that all would cooperate with one another.

**2. How did we get bigger?** and now what is the problem? Up until the end of World War II, judo was primarily a Japanese cultural activity centered in areas of large Japanese populations. Even looking at old pre-WW II photographs one could immediately see nothing but Japanese faces. After the war judo began to grow not only in numbers but in diversity. Many GI's returning from Japan brought back with them to the States the art, sport, and science of judo, which many came to enjoy and love.

As with all practitioners of judo today we are drawn to the magic of throwing another person through the air or maybe it's the control factor to be found in one's own body if trained properly. Moreover, the respect, discipline, self-esteem, and physically enhancing benefits to be gained from the fun practice of judo are underlying reasons for its growing popularity.

Today the photos have changed and there is a multiplicity of cultures to be found in our American judo world. Our first U.S. Olympic Judo team in 1964 consisted of Paul Maruyama, a Japanese American lightweight, Jim Bregman, a Jewish American middleweight and Bronze medalist, a light heavyweight American Indian, and eventual United States Senator from Colorado, Ben "Nighthorse" Campbell, and George Harris our Heavyweight, a black man.

We first became a national judo organization in 1952 with the formation of the Judo Black Belt Federation of America (JBBF) It consisted mainly of Yudanshakai's that had formed in various parts of the United States, mainly in Washington, California, Denver, Illinois, Virginia, Michigan, Pennsylvania, and Washington D.C. and Hawaii. The JBBF later changed its name to "The United States Judo Federation." (USJF), of which, Nanka is a member. The other original national judo organizations is the United States Judo Association, which formed in 1965 out of the Armed Forces Judo Yudanshakai (AFJA), because of ideological differences, which arose from a large fraction of American judoka.

Today these two national Grassroots Judo™ Organizations coexist and cooperate with one another in developing Grassroots Judo™ throughout the U.S. The USJA having about 7,000 members and the USJF now dropping to about 7,000 as well, having led the race for members at about 10,000 members for the last 30 years.

The third national organization USA Judo (USAJ), is the National Governing Body and originally was a "representative" organization consisting of about 120 representatives covering any and all of the organizations in the United States dealing with judo. It acted as the moderating organization of judo and allowed not only a voice but a vote in how judo was to be run in the United States. It had as its charge the development of our International Teams for International Championships, Including the World Championships and the Olympic Games.

In 2006, at the arm-twisting of the USOC, the representative organization was cut down to a small "unrepresentative, 10 member board" and no longer acted as a mediating force but as a competitive force. Originally through U.S. Senator Ted Steven's Sports act of 1980, all Olympic sports were to now govern themselves.

Before this act all Olympic sports were a part of the Amateur Athletic Union (AAU). The USJF and the USJA in various states and regions had representatives that were a part of the AAU. Our National Championships originally was called the AAU National Judo Championships, but this structure of governance came to an end in 1980 with the Stevens Sports Act which canceled out the AAU.

In the new governing organization under the leadership of Frank Fullerton, for 14 years, all bona fide judo organizations in the United States were to be represented. It consisted of classes of memberships. The "A" members were the two National judo organizations with the highest number of members, the USJF and the USJA. The "B" members were the State organizations. "C" class members consisted of organizations like the U.S. Military, YMCA's, Boy Scouts, and any other organization who wanted to belong. All had a voice in American Judo and depending on the number of members you had, you had so many votes. This original organization was called United States Judo Incorporated and was annually growing larger. (USJI) should not be confused with the organization that is supposedly running (USAJ) since 2006, which gives neither a representative voice nor vote to any of the above organizations in the running of Elite judo.

The problem is that USAJ is a wolf in sheep's clothing and we are the sheep following the disguised wolf to our slow elimination. The original understanding after 2006 was that USAJ was to take care of Senior Elite judo and the USJF and USJA would deal with Grassroots Judo™. This has not had a very positive result for US Judo. What is sad is USAJ is in charge of elite athletes, but most of them are developed as a result of USJF and USJA clubs and tournaments. That's because USAJ doesn't have dedicated judoka who see the larger picture of developing a better human being as well as great champions, as we do. Their only concern is staying in power. Still, in dividing judo into grassroots and elite and not giving the USJF and USJA a proper representation or vote, USAJ consistently alienates the very organizations that has provided them with their athletes who have won international medals.

USAJ has not even taken care of its own charge. When the newly constructed 10 member board came into existence in 2006 it had approximately 1 million+ dollars set aside from the 84 Olympics in a special trust to be used for the athlete's development. Most of it is gone now, but not for the athletes.

It is almost nonexistent as a result of mismanagement by an organization with no mechanism for oversight. Even the funds allocated to USAJ by the U.S. Olympic Committee to be doled out to athletes in training was slow to be distributed at a time when time was of the essence. Just ask, Ronda, ask Kayla, ask Jimmy, ask Travis if this is not so?

While elite athletes are largely graduates of our Grassroots Judo™ Organizations, and we continue to root for them as part of our family, they seem to be treated as foster children by USAJ, with neither a winning plan nor much financial support for them. Oh and by the way, the extra funds promised by the USOC, it may have come but none of it ever got to the athletes who voted for the downsizing of their original Board.

Whose watching USAJ? We are; but now from the outside because of we have no voice or vote. Furthermore, it continues on with our juniors vying to become senior elites. Where once USJI would pay for even the second string players to international events this new Board tells our athletes to self-fund if they want to be on an international team.

Now USAJ is cutting into the Grassroots Judo™ program. It's happening in our local area. They recently received a \$25,000 dollar grant to develop a grassroots program from the IJF. Instead of asking the Grassroots Judo™ organizations how best we could develop judo to eventually suit their needs and possibly that of budding young elites, they have started up their own clubs and have solicited our clubs in our area with the Los Angeles Parks and Recreation department. These new USAJ members will be the same ones allowed into our tournaments with USAJ membership cards when our athletes are not allowed to compete with USJF or USJA membership cards in their tournaments.

This is the same organization that is calling for the goodwill and cooperation of the three organizations where in fact they are merely mining our organization for their benefit. Even the running of their tournaments in our area recently has cut into our budget by \$20,000. That's \$20,000 that we use to fund our "Shorai" program, our Kata, Referees, Special Clinics, running of our office, committees, our meetings, and tournaments. Ask our CFO!

Yet, because of the lure and lore of the names; Olympics, USA Team, World Championships, International Competition and its association with excellence we seem to forget what we are all about. We are a Grassroots Judo™ Organization dedicated to making great citizens, and should it be that we develop a champion we should know that we played a great part in it. The idea must be understood that 90 to 95% of our members are recreational players. Only 5 to 10% fall within the elite category, and yes, they are important in that they represent the best of the best. But, let's not forget the silent 90 to 95% who we are all about.

**3. What should we do in Nanka?** Within the USJF, Nanka is the 2nd largest yudanshakai and consists of 45+ dojos, depending on when you count them. Its strength within the yudanshakai system depends on the number of members who pay into the system.

The larger the organization the larger the amount of money it can spend on its member's needs. The smaller the membership the less money that comes in to pay for programs. Programs like those we have to develop our best players, referees, coaches, teachers, kata development, representatives to our national meetings, clinics, advertisements, meeting halls, awards, tournaments, etc., everything costs!

The biggest question right now is; what are we going to spend our finite monies on? Elite programs, or on developing teachers? Currently, only 5% to 10% of our membership in dojos attend tournaments. What of the other 95% to 90% getting? Should we not increase the membership? But how do we do that?

Each dojo has a ceiling limitation depending on the size of the dojo space and times allotted for practice. Also by the ratio of teachers to students (ideally 15 to 20 per instructor) depending on what type of program that is being run, also on the life cycle of the dojo, i.e. a dojo with older members are more social than competitive. Dojos with a go-getter sensei, now older and retired may be lax and mentally semi-retired. Young sensei are prone to making mistakes, but that's all right, just correct them. It's all within the life cycle of a dojo's life, which may end with the death or sickness or loss of spirit in a sensei.

Like it or not, the yudanshakai growth depends on building new instructors and innovative programs if we are to survive. The more instructors we train, the more members. The more members, the more innovative programs one can fund. So what innovative programs are we going to fund?!

**5. Things we need to do.** Are we in the business of making champions or making "champions of character?"

- a. We need to stick together in an organization that has proven itself over and over again as a leader in developing great citizens. Think about all the events our organization continues to provide great tournaments, great kids who learn about discipline, self-esteem, respect for others, courage, enduring spirit, and the practical understanding that hard work can lead to a successful outcome. This is done within the working of our yudanshakai, Nanka, but it is something that we must remind ourselves from time to time that it is an important cherished mechanism that works when every one contributes.
- b. Growing judo depends on building dojos, which in turn is run by a sensei. Most of us have only one concept of a sensei, the all-knowing "Wax on, wax off" a cross between Pat Morita and Yoda type. The word sensei actually means "before life".

It's a person who has experience life before you do. Thus even a brown belt in a sense is a sensei in relationship to a white belt because they have had prior experience. By the time they are brown belts, they know judo etiquette, how to fall safely to the mat, the basic throws and pins of judo, simple rules of judo, a little of its history, and philosophy.

By the time they are an ikkyu they move differently and have a few tournaments under their belt, even with a few wins and losses that have added to their maturity. These are the students you should have helping you with your beginners while you tend to the advanced student's needs. By this time all they need is a little education and experience to build their confidence. To this end, the USJF has both the Teachers Certification Program and the Mini Dojo Certification Program to help.

In particular, the Mini Dojo Program shows how to run a Mini Dojo, a small class in a YMCA, Boys and Girls Club, recreation Center, BJJ private club, or after school programs. These are places where many times they are looking for a good program. The only difference between a regular and a Mini Dojo Program is that the participants are taught judo except they don't participate in standing "randori" making them less accident prone. Usually, these classes are at most 8 to 10 weeks long twice a week for about an hour. Hardly enough time to safely teach randori. These are classes that almost any ikkyu can easily teach.

This is how to grow judo and take it to the community. This is how to increase judo understanding and to get new members. Remember, more teachers, more students, more members, more money, more programs that matter. It's up to you.

- c. Branding our judo. When Nanka members use to go to the Senior Nationals in the good old days we had judo t-shirts, judo sweats with Nanka across our backs. You could hear the others at the tournaments whisper, those guys in Nanka sweats are tough! Watch out for them. When we got back, we were written up in the local paper. Today we have now sweats or t-shirts and no one even notices never mind the local paper. This has got to change. We need to shine again and celebrate our winners. We need a Social Media Director and a Quartermaster in charge of Nanka items to sell to our members.
- d. We need our Big Bang Tournament We have an excellent chance now that we have acquired one of the largest tournaments in the United States. This tournament will not only put us on the map but will take us out of the red and put us in the black for a long time.

Let's not miss this chance to learn from one of the best tournament directors in the U.S., Gary Goltz our outgoing President, who was willing, not only to donate the tournament to Nanka but will direct it till we have learned to ride this monster without training wheels.

- e. Innovative programs are a must. I have listed a few above, but there are many more out there. Recent innovations have greatly improved Nanka Judo such as our Junior Referee Program. Alex Fukuma as our website master and has done wonders with our internet presence. It's perhaps the best one in the US right now.

Our CFO, Ken Teshima has brought us to a new level of understanding our funds as well. Our Shorai Program is the envy of other yudanshakai has been ably started by Jason Uno. Now we have an event director who efficiently runs our tournaments, Maria Maciel. But best of all the "band leader" of all that has happened recently in Nanka, is Gary Goltz.

All these innovations come from "ideas." They are just thoughts pulled out from the air, but someone has to think of them first. That's why we need to think of developing a "Nanka Think Tank."

*Now there's something to think about!*



**Hayward Nishioka, 9<sup>th</sup> Dan**

**October 15, 2019**

**From:** Hayward Nishioka <nishiokahayward@gmail.com>

**Sent:** Sunday, October 20, 2019 10:58 AM

**To:** undisclosed-recipients:

**Subject:** Reply to: "Why can't we just all get along?"

Long past and little remembered even in Japan is the fact that there were three (3) maxims, not just two maxims of judo; Seiryoku zenryo (Maximum Efficiency, Minimum Effort), Jita Kyoie (Mutual Welfare and Benefit), and the one that was dropped off after the war, Jiko No Kansei, Self-Perfection. The last one which can also be thought of as Self Perfection was thought to be to self-ish a consideration when trying to popularize judo, soon faded into the past.

The way it was translated to me by my stepfather, Dan Oka from a monthly magazine put out by the Kodokan in the 50s and 60s, went like this. Kano was asked about his maxim or Mutual Welfare and Benefit. How is it possible to have mutual welfare and benefit all the time? So how is that mutual welfare? "How can there be two winners in a contest, let's say as in a life and death match? One wins and one loses, - - - his life? To answer this dilemma, paraphrasing Kano, " Eh!- -, that's why there is Jiko no Kansei, Self-Perfection, Thinking in a larger sense, in a war, would you side with your country or the other country? Certainly with your own country, likewise as between the opponent and yourself, you must choose yourself." The reason I mention this story and this forgotten Maxim is that we are currently faced with this dilemma now between the Grassroots organizations and the Elite Organization.

What is so hard to understand that there was an agreement that the USAJ was to take care of Elite athletes and we were to take care of the Grassroots level of judo? That they have recently received from the IJF \$25,000 dollars to develop judo and they have decided to use this money to open up Grassroots judo clubs in the Los Angeles area. Also that they have openly and without even a phone call to any of our elected leaders that they were going to run two of their largest tournaments in our area. These two tournaments cost us to have a \$19,000 dollar drop in our own tournament revenue's this year; revenues that we use to support our local events and competitors. Where is the mutual welfare and benefit when we allow USAJ to enter our tournaments with their membership cards, yet they say, "NO" to our members entering their tournaments.

It is a quixotic dream that we should become one organization. That came to a close in 2006 when we lost our vote and our voice in the one avenue that had any possibility of redemption. Right now USAJ is what is called an oligarchical organization, which is controlled by a small group of people. Our USJF organization is a representative organization controlled by representatives from the various areas of the United States.

Everyone has a voice and a vote in how things are run within the organization, which means there is oversight. If something is wrong in the organization a representative merely brings it up in the meeting and it is resolved, usually by a majority vote. In an oligarchy just the small group makes decisions. In the small USAJ group you have two business people as their CEO and their President who are not even judoka. You have other people who don't even report back to anyone nor take concerns to the USAJ from anyone. The voting structure used in USAJ prevents true representation, and back and forth communication between the Generals and the troops who are on the front line. If something goes wrong, too bad.

Nobel laureate, Daniel Kahneman advocates thinking back from the future as one way to resolve a problem. So let's say that we go to a one judo organization format in the future and it turns out to be USAJ.

What will it be like for Nanka Judo? = = = "WHAT? No local tournaments with enough contestants to even fill all the weight categories? Where are our shorai programs? What about our Junior and senior referees' program? What happened to our Nanka website? You know the one that we could post all our disagreements on? The one, that showed all our kids who were champions, and champions of character? We used to have quarterly meetings and could discuss how to improve local conditions, - - - but, no more. Who's running the show!?! How come we don't have clinics anymore? What ever happened to the certification programs that tested for excellence in coaching and teaching? We don't even have promotions anymore. What's happening? We used to have a couple of rebel rousers, like that Nishioka guy, but now they just belly ache and don't do anything constructive anymore. "Who me? - - - I just don't have the time. Besides, isn't that what the National organizations supposed to be doing?"

SO, - - - can we really afford to ditch what we have now for an unknown future with an oligarchical organization who really doesn't have a plan for our local dojo's other than to take our resources and not even use the money for the athletes? I have seen too many good athletes lose opportunities to succeed because the USAJ doesn't have a plan for success. If you don't believe me, ask Olympic Bronze Medalist Ronda Rousey, Silver Medalist Travis Stevens, Gold Medalist Kayla Harrison, They're the ones who IN SPITE OF USAJ, succeeded.