

## 9<sup>th</sup> Annual USJF National Kata Clinic

Article by Chris Williams

Photos by Ashleigh Williams

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On August 7th-9th, 2009, the 9th Annual USJF National Kata Clinic was hosted by South Sound Judo and held in Tumwater, Washington. This clinic is sponsored by the USJF Kata Development & Certification Committee. The clinic received additional support from the Northwest Yudanshakai Judo Development Committee. The National Kata Clinic offers a setting where kata practitioners from every level can come to share and learn from some of the very best instructors and competitors in the U.S. This year's venue was Tumwater Middle School which offered a full-size gymnasium with bleacher seating, locker rooms with showers, and a foyer for registration, refreshment breaks, and lunches. The city of Tumwater is located adjacent to the Washington State Capitol of Olympia at the south end of the Puget Sound.

Four of the nations leading experts in judo kata were this year's kata clinicians: Mrs. Eiko Shepherd, Head Clinician (7<sup>th</sup> Dan & USJF Kata Development & Certification Chairperson); Mr. Mike Purcell, Clinician (6<sup>th</sup> Dan), Mrs. Frances Glaze, Clinician (5<sup>th</sup> Dan & PJU Kata Champion), and Mrs. Delynn Purcell (5<sup>th</sup> Dan and World Masters Grand Champion). Purcell Sensei was assisted by Mr. Hector Mendez who played the role of Uke for demonstrations). Each of them brought years of knowledge and expertise, which was skillfully demonstrated by virtue of the progress shown by the participants throughout the clinic.



The clinic was also privileged to have the presence of USJF officials such as Mr. Neil Simon, USJF President, and Mrs. Julie Koyama, USJF 2nd Vice President and President of the Northwest

Yudanshakai. This year's Clinic had forty-two registered participants. They ranged from Juniors and Seniors and included white belts to advanced black belts. Participants came from around the Pacific Northwest and other parts of the country, including Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Alaska, and Texas.

In addition to testing and certification, clinicians also selected and presented awards for the Most Outstanding Tori and Uke for both Juniors and Seniors. Emily Purerner (Alaska Dojo) and Korina Mirelez (Alaska Dojo) were each awarded the Junior awards, while Brett Lewis (Spokane Judo) and Kinsley Matthews (Kitsap Judo) were each awarded the Senior awards.



The huge success of this year's clinic was largely due to many coordinators, staffers, volunteers, and supporters who provided their time and service during the planning and execution of this growing event. A special thanks goes to Mr. Chris Williams, Clinic Director; Mr. Ken Pratt, Registration Coordinator; Mrs. Mimi Williams, Meals and Refreshment Coordinator, Mrs. Karen Nagai, Instructor and VIP hostess, and other members and friends of the South Sound Judo Club. The clinic organizers would also like to recognize Mr. James S. Harai, Sr. (7th Dan) for his generous donation of the Outstanding Tori and Uki awards. In addition, Washington State Judo, Inc. and Ippon Judo Dojo supported this year's event by allowing the use of their Tatami.



This year's format was adjusted from past clinics to accommodate the specific interests of the participants. In this new format two general sessions and two breakout sessions were offered. During the general sessions, all participants were

instructed in a single kata. During the breakout sessions, participants had the option to select one of two kata being offered during that time slot. All participants had the option to test for certification in any kata of their choice for either USJF Instructor or USA Judo Judge accreditation. The following schedule was offered and katas were taught and reviewed in detail during the event:

Friday morning: Open Mat - Practice & Individual Instruction

Friday afternoon: General Session #1 - Nage no Kata,

Saturday morning: Breakout Session #1 - Ju no Kata & Kime no Kata

Saturday afternoon: General Session #2 - Katame no Kata

Sunday morning: Breakout Session #2 - Kodokan Goshinjutsu & Itsutsu no Kata

Sunday afternoon: Instructor & judging certification testing



The Clinic also included a no-host dinner on Saturday evening. The dinner was held at Anthony's Homeport in downtown Olympia near the Marina. Thirty-one participants attend the evening event. Good northwest food was enjoyed by all and the evening included a lot of good conversation, laughter, and some old war stories of times past on the competition mat.

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August 7-9, 2009, Tumwater, WA  
Hosted by South Sound Judo

