

# calendar of events

2001-2002

Jun 27-Jul 2, 2001	USNF/INF Seminar and Promotional Test; USNF Board Meeting INF Board Meeting, Tendo-ryu Seminar San Jose State University
Oct, 2001	ECNF Seminar
Oct, 2001	NCNF Championship San Jose State University
Mar, 2002	USNF Promotional Test USNF Board Meeting/General Meeting USNF Dan Examination San Jose State University
Jul/Aug 2002	USNF Championship USNF Board Meeting/General Meeting USNF Dan Examination

# demonstrations

## ncnf demonstration

On Saturday, April 14, 2001, members of the Northern California Naginata Federation (Mountain View Dojo) gave a 30-minute demonstration of naginata techniques at the annual Cherry Blossom Festival in Cupertino, California. The demo generated much interest in naginata with several people expressing interest in beginning practice. Kurt Schmucker narrated the demonstration of basic techniques performed by Helen Nishiura, Maureen Hawk and Karen Schmucker.



**NCNF Demonstration:** Maureen Hawk and Karen Schmucker demonstrate *shikake-ji* at the Cupertino, California Cherry Blossom Festival, April 14, 2001. photo: Ken Miyaki

# naginata q&a

Here is a question you could be asked on a dan exam (English translation by Tanaka Sensei and Kurt Schmucker): explain the difference between *keiko* and *shiai* in Naginata.

Examining the dictionary meanings of the *kanji* that make up *keiko* and *shiai* can help us discern the difference between these two training methods in Naginata. *Keiko* 稽古 is composed of two

*kanji*: *kei* 稽 which means "think, to consider, to reflect on" and *ko* 古 which means "old." Thus, *keiko* is a way of training that encourages the practitioner to reflect on lessons learned, to think in depth about choices and about alternatives. *Shiai* 試合, on the other hand, is composed of *kanji* that mean "to come together" 合 in order "to test" 試. *Shiai* is a way to test, or to try-out the lessons learned from many months of *keiko*. *Shiai* is also a way to demonstrate to yourself and your teachers both what you have learned, and what you still need to learn.

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UNITED STATES NAGINATA FEDERATION

No. 4, June 15, 2001

## usnf-inf seminars

The United States Naginata Federation (USNF) will hold its annual seminar June 27-28 at San Jose State University, San Jose, California. This year, the US and INF Seminars are being held back-to-back in San Jose June 29-July 1. Training will be held in the Women's Intermural Building on the SJSU campus.

### 1 1/2-Day USNF Seminar

This seminar (Jun 27-28) is open to all students from beginners to more advanced. The first day will only be a half-day of training, from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. Fees for one and one-half days are \$60.

### INF Referee Seminar

The first day of the INF seminar (Jun 29) will be dedicated to *shinpan* training for *sandan* rank and above. The fee for this portion of the seminar is \$50.

### Two-Day INF Seminar

The rest of the INF seminar (Jun 30-Jul 1) will be devoted to overall training for all levels. The fee is \$80 for the two days of training.

### Promotional Tests

At the conclusion of training, promotional tests will be held for both *dangai* and *yudansha* ranks. The USNF will administer the *dangai* exams, while the INF will administer testing up to *sandan*.

### Accommodations

Rooms have been reserved at the Hilton Hotel in downtown San Jose, within walking distance to the training facility. There will also be dorm rooms available on SJSU campus. To register for these events, please contact Malayne Chiu, Executive Secretary, USNF: 408.281.7382 email: malyneC@aol.com.

## usnf board meeting

The USNF Board of Directors met in San Jose on March 31 and April 1, 2001. Discussions took place regarding upcoming national and international events. A summary of those discussions follows.

### USNF Seminar and Tournament 2002

The Board has asked all regional federations to submit proposals for holding the next USNF seminar and tournament in 2002. So far there have been no formal proposals, but the Rocky Mountain

Naginata Federation (RMNF) and East Coast Naginata Federation (ECNF) said they were thinking of holding a joint seminar at the University of Maryland in 2002.

### INF 2003 Third World Championship

The proposed sites for this event have been narrowed to two venues: San Jose State University or Hayward State University. Diana Payne, Kevin Saxton and Karen Schmucker have agreed to form a committee to create a list of priorities for event. The list will be

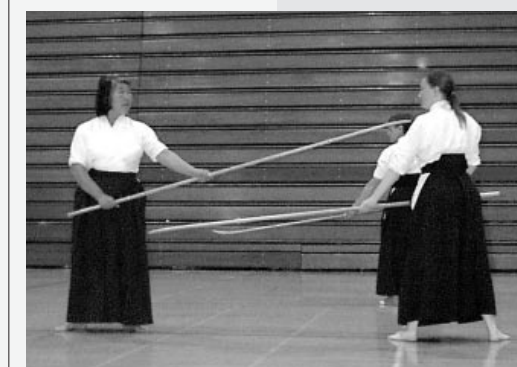
discussed at the next board meeting in June and prioritized at that time. Expect to see more subcommittees formed as the next two years pass. If you are interested in helping, contact your local representative (see addresses on back page).

### Naginata website update

Kurt Schmucker (NCNF) reports that the naginata website is once again up and running at [www.naginata.org](http://www.naginata.org). It will soon be updated to include the last several minutes of Board Meeting minutes, newsletters and information on upcoming events.

### Naginata bulletin board

Nathan Scott (SCNF) brought up the idea of starting an interactive bulletin board to accompany the website. It will provide a forum for people to discuss naginata issues live. Nathan and Kurt Schmucker will be working together to set up the board in the near future. Stay tuned for more details. (continued on page 2.)



**RMNF Seminar:** Tanaka Sensei and Johana Weber practice *zen nihon kata* at Batesville, Indiana Seminar. (see story inside) photo: James Covington



UNITED STATES NAGINATA FEDERATION, INC.

## Mixed regional teams at USNF Championships

Fran Vall (ECNF) raised the issue of allowing regional federations lacking enough members to field a full women's or men's team to join together to make a mixed team. This would give everyone involved in the Team Matches an additional team to fight. There was much discussion about this issue at the meeting, with the final decision being that since the by-laws did not prohibit single-person teams, even a team with only one woman (or one man) could field a team. They would not be able to win the division, but it would afford them the opportunity to participate.

## election results

Elections were held for Board of Director positions on April 1. The following individuals were elected to serve in the following positions for the 2001–2003 term.

**President:** Miyako Tanaka Price

**Vice-President:** Kurt Schmucker

**Executive Secretary:** Malyne Chiu

**Recording Secretary:** Karen Yesowich Schmucker

**Treasurer:** Stephanie Hoppe

## usnf promotions april 2001

The USNF held its semiannual *dan* promotion test on April 1, 2001 in San Jose, California. A *kyu* examination was also held at this time. Three individuals tested for *dan* ranks and four for *kyu*. The results were as follows:

### Sandan

Eric Montes (NCFN)

### Nidan

Nathan Scott (SCNF)

Bruce Mitchell (NCFN)

### 1 kyu

Chris Phelps (ECNF)

### 2 kyu

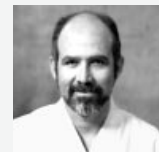
Kurt Ishisaka (NCFN)

### 3 kyu

Raquel Willey (NCFN)

Yoko Lobberegt (NCFN)

Helen Nishiura (NCFN)



Eric Montes (NCFN)



Nathan Scott (SCNF)



Bruce Mitchell (NCFN)



Chris Phelps (ECNF)



Kurt Ishisaka (NCFN)



Raquel Willey (NCFN)



Yoko Lobberegt (NCFN)



Helen Nishiura (NCFN)

## kyu examiners

The following individuals were approved as *kyu* examiners at the last USNF Board Meeting:

### East Coast Naginata Federation

Sachiko Yamauchi Prough, Fran Vall

### Northern California Naginata Federation

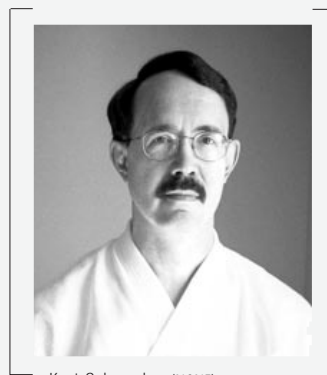
Miyako Tanaka Price, Malyne Chiu, Kurt Schmucker, Bob Peterson, Diana Garrett, Marcia Toyohara, Karen Schmucker

### Rocky Mountain Naginata Federation

Takami Tanner, Diana Payne, Steve Payne

### Southern California Naginata Federation

Helen Nakano, Jean Yien, Kevin Saxton



Kurt Schmucker (NCFN)

## ajnf promotions

Congratulations to Kurt Schmucker (NCFN), who was recently promoted to the rank of *godan*. Kurt traveled to Itami, Japan for the annual *dan* test held by the All-Japan Naginata Federation (AJNF).

## regional events

### ECNF seminars

#### Fall Seminar

The Fifth Annual Fall ECNF Naginata Seminar was held on the beautiful campus of George Mason University in Fairfax, Virginia. The seminar ran from Friday (10 Nov. 2000) evening through Sunday (12 Nov. 2000) noon. Our instructors were: Takami Tanner (*godan*, RMNF), Fran Vall (*yondan*, ECNF) and Bob Peterson (*yondan*, NCFN). We had a dozen attendees primarily from the local Northern Virginia Kendo & Naginata Club and from the New York Naginata Club. Two of Takami Tanner's students from Indiana also attended who are former local students. Nine of the attendees took promotional exams. The results were as follows:

### 3 kyu

Ernest Lissabet (ECNF)

Chris Phelps (ECNF)

Derek Pomery (ECNF)

### 4 kyu

Raymond Espiritu (ECNF)

Erin Monroe (ECNF)

After the exam, we all went to the local Kendo class on campus. Mr. Peterson gave a Naginata demonstration. He then explained the strategies used by each side in matches of Kendo vs. Naginata. He along with Ms. Vall and Mr. Brian Monroe took on all Kendo players, including their instructor, Mr. Don Seto. The result was a highly spirited half-hour or so of mixed *jigeiko*.

### New York Seminar

The New York Naginata Club (NYNC) held its second annual seminar on 21 and 22 April 2001 at the Community Educational and Recreational Center in Jersey City, NJ. The instructors for the seminar were: Miyako Tanaka (*kyoshi*), Sachiko Yamauchi, (*kyoshi*) and Takami Tanner (*godan*). A special training session focusing on *yudansha* was held Saturday morning at the White Street Dojo, in Manhattan's Chinatown.

For this seminar, there were sixteen attendees on Saturday and twelve on Sunday. For the exam (*shinsa*) on Sunday, there were eight applicants for *dangai* ranks. The results were as follows:

### 1 kyu

John Prough (ECNF)

Uriah Barsef (ECNF)

Shawn Wilson (ECNF)

Margaret Welsh (ECNF)

Ernest Lissabetone (ECNF)

### 5 kyu

Yours Khalil (ECNF)

Ryan Bruun (ECNF)

### 2 kyu

Raymond Espiritu (ECNF)

### 3 kyu

Yours Khalil (ECNF)

Chris Snyder (ECNF)

Congratulations to all,  
Ray Sosnowski  
Secretary, East Coast Naginata Federation

### RMNF seminar

Rocky Mountain Naginata Federation held a Seminar at Batesville High School, in Batesville Indiana May 26–27 2001. Tanaka Sensei, Takami Tanner and Fran Vall were the instructors. 19 participants (including instructors) came from several different states (including California, Indiana, Ohio, Illinois, Tennessee and Virginia). An exam was held on Sunday, May 27th. The results were as follows:

### 2 kyu

Derek Pomery (ECNF)

Jeff Hafer (RMNF)

### 3 kyu

Ken Montville (RMNF)

### 4 kyu

Ruth Turpin (RMNF)

Sheri Focke (RMNF)

Kevin Tanner (RMNF), minor

### 5 kyu

Michael Howell (RMNF), minor

Both days of the seminar concentrated on basic Naginata. There were three brand new participants (one from Tennessee and two from Martinsville, Indiana). During the seminar they learned enough to perform *uchikaeshi* (attack side). More experienced people reviewed basics (*joge-buri*, *datotsu*, *uchikaeshi* and *shikake-oji*). Some practice in *bagu* took place on the second day.

As a result of this seminar, we now have more new members in the USNF as well as in RMNF. We will continue to practice together and hopefully we will make our group grow even more. Last but not least, we appreciate the support the USNF provided to make this seminar successful. I would like to express my thanks on behalf of the Batesville Naginata Club.

Takami Tanner  
Rocky Mountain Naginata Federation

### Northern California Championship

On Sunday, October 22, 2000, the NCFN held its annual championship at San Jose State University. Although we had a smaller than usual turnout, it was a lively event. Several beginning students took part in their first *engi* competitions and did very well. Three pairs of advanced students took part in the *engi* competition, while some of their fellow students acted as referees. The winners were: Dan and Diana Garrett, first place; Frank Broadhead and Stephanie Hoppe, second place; Kurt and Karen Schmucker, third place. In *Shiai* matches, Diana Garrett won first place in the Women's Division; Karen Schmucker and Stephanie Hoppe tied for second place. In the Men's Division, Dan Garrett took first place, Bob Peterson second and Frank Broadhead third.

Two special teams were added this year to the team matches: North Bay vs. South Bay and husbands vs. wives. In the first series of matches, North Bay beat South Bay and in the second set, the husbands beat the wives. A good time was had by all.

Karen Schmucker  
Northern California Naginata Federation



**Husbands vs. Wives Team Match** : NCFN Championship, San Jose, California, November, 2000. photo: Helen Nishiura