



# Snapkick

Dojo student newsletter



West Valley Martial Arts

*"A martial artist is an artist of life." - O'Sensei Richard Kim*

*January 2017*

## **A Brief History Of O'Sensei Kim (Part One)**

*By Sensei Louis Jemison*

O'Sensei Kim was born on November 17, 1917, in Honolulu, Hawaii. He began his study of the martial arts with Judo at the age of five in the early 1920s under Kaneko Sensei. At about the same time he began to study Karate. He studied under Arakaki Sensei (a disciple of Yabu Kentsu) and Tachibana Sensei. Before World War II, he traveled to both China and Japan.

When Japan attacked Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, O'Sensei Kim was working as a merchant seaman on the USS President Harrison sailing in the South Pacific. On December 8, 1941, a Japanese destroyer attacked the USS President Harrison and the ship was captured along with the crew and passengers. O'Sensei found himself a prisoner of war interned in the City of Shanghai for what turned out to be the duration of the war. Yes, this was very unusual, and within a short time all but five of the sailors and passengers would move from being interned in the City of Shanghai to being interned in "prisoner of war camps." These five that remained were referred to as the five oriental "brothers" of which, O'Sensei Richard Kim was one of the five.

Befriended by Japanese martial artist's stationed in Shanghai, O'Sensei was able to study and train in Shanghai for the next three plus years. In Shanghai, he spent time studying the martial arts under Chen Chen Yuan and Choa Hsu Lai. O'Sensei's exposure to such Masters as Wang Xing Zai and Chen Chen Yaun would affect his training and approach to the martial arts for the rest of his life.

## **Mat Chats**

### **Good Habits**

Week 1. Self discipline

Week 2. Dinner before dessert

Week 3. Taking responsibility

Week 4. Wherever you are... Be there!!!



With the defeat of Japan in 1945 O'Sensei would find himself on the USS Sanctuary bound for Hawaii. He would have a short stint in the Merchant Marines as a Steward, which found him shuttling back and forth to Japan and Hawaii where he would continue his training. In 1949 O'Sensei would lose his maritime papers due to a court martial. An interesting story resulting in closing one door while opening another. Due to the notoriety of the court martial, the head of the Sailor's Union of the Pacific, Harry Lundeberg, became aware of O'Sensei and offered O'Sensei the job. O'Sensei became representative for the Pacific Seamen's Union, stationed in Yokohama, Japan. O'Sensei would often say, "It is better to be lucky than smart." Richard Kim was both.

# Zen Bei Butoku-Kai

2017 Annual Registrations are due.

As you may know, the ZBBK is the international organization that our dojo and all of our students belong to. This is the *non-profit* organization that is committed to carrying on O'Sensei Kim's legacy and that certifies our curriculum, instructors and your ranking in the martial arts. Our long standing agreement with the Zen Bei Butoku-Kai is that all of our students and instructors maintain current membership with the organization.

**Renewal fee for each student is:**  
**\$10 for Pre-Karate students**  
**\$20 for all other students**  
**(check or cash only please)**

**Please make your check out to: ZBBK**

**Please pay this amount by January 31st.**

If you have any questions please contact me anytime.

Thank you very much!

*Sensei Dan Wakefield*

*This month we will be focusing on defenses against common attacks. We will practice techniques against chokes, grabs, swinging punches, headlocks, and so much more. I want our students to develop confidence in their skills, and be able to react correctly in an instant. Proper practice and rigorous training will develop self confidence in one's technique!*



This month there will be TWO chanbara competitions! First, we will hold a fun, low-key competition on Thursday and Friday, January 5th and 6th during regular class times. We will bring out the long swords as well as shields and make sure students have a great time!

Then Sanford's Martial Arts will hold a Chanbara competition in Soquel (4626 Soquel Dr. Soquel, CA 95073) on January 28th. Students will be competing for medals and trophies. There will be a \$15 fee payable to Sanford's school the day of the competition. Look for a sign-up sheet in the beginning of January.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>January 2017</b>						
1	2 Closed	3	4	5 Chanbara competition	6 Chanbara competition	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16 Closed	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26 <b>Testing</b> Regular class times Thurs & Fri	27	28 Chanbara competition in Soquel
29	30	31	Notes: <b>wvmadojo.com (408) 871-8180</b>			