



at "The Center for Traditional Martial Arts". And finally, on the 14th we celebrated *Kagami Biraki* with *Shihan* Gettings at his home and *dojo*.

The Magee *dojo* was thoroughly cleaned from floor to rafters in the morning and a great party followed in the evening. "Uncle Ken" Wintin led us in a dedication of the *mochi* and *Shihan* was surprised with new *dojo* banners, "eightfold *bukuro*" and an antique Tibetan bell. The evening concluded with Dr. Gettings reading a few *tengu* stories by candle and porch light.

Sekiguchi Testing

This year the testing for rank in the *Shin Shin Sekiguchi Ryu* was held in Costa Mesa, California. *Yamada Soke* Traveled from his home in *Takayama* to personally officiate the testing and to serve as a judge at the West Coast *Tai Kai*. Among the students to be elevated in rank this year from the *Yamakawa Dojo* are;



Loren Kierstead (*Nidan*)
 John Bechman (*Shodan*)
 Patrick Haley (*Shodan*)
 Marilea Major (*Shodan*)
 David Wallis (*Shodan*)

West Coast Tai Kai

Once again Loren Kierstead needed help carrying all his awards home. Loren was a strong contender all day for the overall *Tai Kai* championship, winning a place among the top five in almost every event he entered. Most notable was his performance in *yokonarabi* where he bested the field by cutting through seven complete *goza*. Again this year Loren and Dave Wallis found themselves

dueling in the kneeling *kata* finals. And once again Loren took home the gold. Dave was glad to see Loren promoted on Sunday to *Nidan* where he will certainly be a formidable force in the *Nidan and Above* category.

The *Sekiguchi Ryu / Mizu Hi* was well represented in all of the weekend's events with several members from each of the *dojo's* from across the country in attendance. In particular, a strong contingent from Tucson made their mark in the cutting events.

Pima CC Demo

The Japanese language department at Pima Community College sponsors a Japanese speech contest each year as a part of the Spring semester. The *Yamakawa Dojo* has been invited to demonstrate their sword skills for the audience at midday on **Saturday, April 8th**. We will also be displaying our new banner at this event.

Annual Dues

Yamakawa Dojo is officially affiliated with the *Shin Shin Sekiguchi Ryu*, *Nakamura Ryu* and the *Mizu Hi Kobukai*. Individual membership is required if you wish to be eligible for rank testing or participate in *Kobukai* events. The annual dues are;

<i>Mizu Hi Kobukai</i>	\$ 20.00
<i>Nakamura Ryu</i>	\$ 30.00
<i>Sekiguchi Ryu</i>	\$ 30.00



Events Schedule

February 26, 27 **Iai Demo**
 Saturday and Sunday
 Phoenix Matsuri Festival

April 8 **Iai Demo**
 Saturday mid day
 Pima CC East

New Year 2006

The beginning of the New Year was celebrated with a *Iai* demonstration at the Tucson Children's Museum where we performed *Shin Shin Sekiguchi Kata* and several *Tameshigiri* for the crowd. The following Monday we successfully performed the 1000 cuts (*Sen Bon Suburi*) during our practice