

## **Bio - Director/Producer**

**Yuriko Gamo Romer's** film "Occidental Encounters" won numerous awards at film festivals internationally, among them a Student Academy Award, The Jimmy Stewart Memorial Crystal Heart Award and a Silver Apple. She recently completed "Friend Ships" a short historical animation about John Manjiro, the inadvertent Japanese immigrant rescued by an American whaling captain. Romer has also directed, produced and edited "Dancing with God", was a producer for "Virtuoso: the Olga Samaroff Stokowski story" and was an editor for "On Common Ground: The Life of Howard Thurman." Her short films, which have screened at numerous film festivals, include "Reflection", "Kids will be Kids", "Sunnyside of the Slope", and "Fusion".

Romer is Japanese American, born in Japan and raised in the United States, and is bilingual. She has a master's degree in documentary filmmaking from Stanford University, a brown belt from World Oyama Karate and lives in San Francisco with her husband and 12 year-old son.

## **Bio – Keiko Fukuda, Kodokan 9<sup>th</sup> dan, founder of Soko Joshi Judo**

Keiko Fukuda was born on April 12, 1913, in Tokyo, Japan. Her grandfather, Hachinosuke Fukuda, was a samurai and jujitsu master who taught the martial arts student Jigoro Kano, who went on to found the 20<sup>th</sup> Century practice of judo (*ju* meaning "gentleness" and *do* meaning "the art of, or the way"). In 1934, 21 year-old Keiko Fukuda joined the newly formed women's division of Master Kano's judo school, the Kodokan. In 1966 she immigrated to the United States to teach judo at Mills College for women in Oakland, CA. She founded Soko Joshi Judo Club in 1966 and has lived in San Francisco since.

Today Fukuda Sensei hails as the highest-ranking woman in the history of judo, and she is the last living student of Jigoro Kano, judo's founder. At 97, she continues to run her annual summer women's judo camp (since 1974) and host the annual Keiko Fukuda International Judo Kata Tournament (since 1989). She lives her life by the tenets of judo, and by her motto, "Be strong, be gentle, be beautiful."