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# Judo, Foster City, and the Paralympics

U.S. Paralympics, a division of the U.S. Olympic Committee, was created in May 2001 to focus efforts on enhancing programs, funding and opportunities for persons with physical disabilities to participate in Paralympic sport. The Paralympic Games are the second largest sporting event in the world, conceding top honors only to the Olympics. The multi-sport competition showcases the talents and abilities of the world's most elite athletes with physical disabilities. The Paralympics feature 21 sports, 18 of which are also contested in the Olympics. The next Summer Paralympics will be in 2004 in Athens, Greece, while the next Winter Paralympics will be in Turin, Italy in 2006.

Well and good, but what does this have to do with Foster City? It seems that Willy Cahill, a Foster City resident, is one of the finest judo coaches in the world. He has coached teams from Stanford University, the Junior Pan American Championships, the Goodwill games and the 2000 Olympics team. In 1975 he was made a Judan in jujitsu; that's the highest rank in all of jujitsu!

Currently, Cahill is judo coach to the US Paralympics team, seven members of which will

be competing in the Athens Paralympics. *All seven members are blind or visually impaired. Think about it: blind Judo!* In order to compete, each team member must attend nine training camps in six different US cities. The problem is that each member is responsible for the cost of travel, hotels, meals and equipment. At the previous Paralympics, Cahill's team took the Gold; their goal this year is to do the same, but it will be tough to do without public support.

The Cahill Blind and Visually Impaired Judo Fund has been established to help cover the travel costs for team members. If you would like an opportunity to help this worthy cause, it's easy to do. You just write a check to The Cahill Blind and Visually Impaired Judo Fund and mail it to them c/o Wells Fargo Bank, 999 East Hillsdale Blvd., Foster City, CA 94404. For more information about the fund, contact the fund's organizer, Ron Peck at (415) 336-2355 or email him at [info@supportblindjudo.com](mailto:info@supportblindjudo.com).



## SAVE THE DATE: CHAMBER OF COMMERCE ANNUAL MEETING

Friday, April 16 is the date for the Chamber's Annual Meeting. New officers will be sworn in and as usual, the meeting will feature several speakers with up-to-date and relevant information that affects doing business in Foster City.

*See insert enclosed.*

## The Voice Of Business

When local government wants to get input from local businesses, it turns to your Chamber of Commerce. So as BFI and the City of Foster City were discussing garbage rate changes and the implementation of a new commercial organic waste collection program, your Foster City Chamber of Commerce polled the local business community for its opinions. The responses we received were presented to the City Council at one of their recent meetings. We thank all those businesses that took the time to give us their opinions; those opinions were taken directly to those who make the decisions.

## Arts & Wine Festival Sponsors



Yes, the Festival is still four months away, but we are well into planning already. This year's Festival will be held on June 5th and 6th.

Each year this, the largest event in Foster City, is made possible by sponsorship by organizations and individuals. There are four levels of sponsorship available, each with its own set of benefits, the chief of which is public recognition. Naturally, the earlier in the process one becomes a sponsor, the more public exposure is possible. For more information call the Chamber office at 573-7600 or visit our web site at [fostercitychamber.com](http://fostercitychamber.com).

*See insert enclosed.*