

Kathy Is 'Kata' Queen

Kathy Klein, 32, has established herself as one of the world's top women in the sport of karate, while pursuing a successful career as a screenplay writer for TV documentary films. Kathy is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Walter Klein. As America's No. 1 girl in her sport, Klein was a focus of interest at the Maccabiah's inaugural karate tournament for women. But, in a sport, in which American-Jewish girls excel, the four-strong U.S. Maccabiah squad are in fact all karate internationals.

At the 47-nation biennial World Karate Cup in Budapest in 1984, Klein took second place in the "kata" (literally "form" in Japanese) category, a technique in the ancient sport in which pre-arranged patterns of offensive and defensive techniques are used against imaginary opponents. In the annual Pan-American Games held in Honduras in the same year, Kathy won the gold medal in "kata."

"We were not too worried by the security situation there," she recalls, "but things were a bit noisier when the Games took place in Guatemala in 1983." Klein collected the silver medal on that occasion.

The petite athlete - she weighs only 49.5kgs. and is 1.51m. tall - has scripted a highly-acclaimed TV series on women in sport with a nationwide distribution, which has already been running for three years. The production won a top award at the 1982 New York International Film Festival. Other documentaries in which she has been involved include such diverse subjects as transport and religion.

Klein who resides presently in Seattle, was a ballet dancer before turning to sport, starting with swimming and tennis and later taking up horseback riding. In swimming, she reached a high competitive standard, and was actually a candidate for America's 8th Maccabiah swimming team in 1969, but was not selected.

"Karate," Kathy says, "is a beautiful marriage between art and sport, with both demanding equal physical discipline from those who wish to succeed in them. Karate offers a very specific grace, because it represents efficient use of the body in motion."

Klein takes part in some 10 competitions a year all over the U.S. and abroad. In addition, she works regularly as an



Toughs, beware - Kathy Klein, American karate superstar, fears no woman - or man either.

instructor with the eight-club Washington Karate Association in Seattle. Her own coach, of whom she speaks very warmly, is Julius Thiry. With karate now keeping Kathy so busy, she has less time for her TV work these days.

Women's karate is becoming tremendously popular in the U.S. and all the Americas, she reports. This expansion is

also world-wide and karate for both men and women will be an exhibition sport at the 1988 Seoul Olympics.

The much-travelled athlete is delighted with the organization of the Maccabiah. "These are the first international games I have been at where the organizers genuinely think about the needs of the athletes."

Thoughts From The Lubavitcher Rebbe

Stand Firm Before G-d

By Rabbi Yossi Groner

The weekly portion of the Torah that is read on the Shabbat before Rosh Hashanah is Nitzavim - "You stand firmly this day" - which refers to Rosh Hashanah. The opening verses of Nitzavim are these: "You stand firmly this day, all of you, before G-d, your G-d...so that you may enter into a covenant with G-d, in fulfillment of this oath; a covenant which G-d, your G-d renews this day in order to raise you up this day as a people unto him."

Let us examine the timely instructions and guidance contained by these sentences, word by word and phrase by phrase:

YOU STAND FIRMLY: Jews must stand firm and unshakable, though they are the smallest among all the nations.

ALL OF YOU: This firmness is possible only when they are bound and united together - all of you.

BEFORE G-D YOUR G-D:

How is it possible to form a true and enduring union of different individuals, with different ideas, different interests and different aspirations? The answer is "Before G-d your G-d." The union of all Jews is possible because, as a matter of fact, they are already united by a factor within them that is always, in a sense, "before G-d," namely, their G-dly souls. Chassidism explains that the Divine soul, the Neshama, is actually part of G-d above, and is found in every Jew without exception.

SO THAT YOU MAY ENTER INTO A COVENANT: What is the purpose and goal of the union of all Jews described earlier? "So that you may enter into a covenant with G-d, etc..." a covenant designed to raise you up this day as a people unto Him. Now the picture is clear: A nation consecrated to G-d; a nation which consecrates everyday life down to the last detail to conform to G-d's Torah and to the fulfillment of all His commands.

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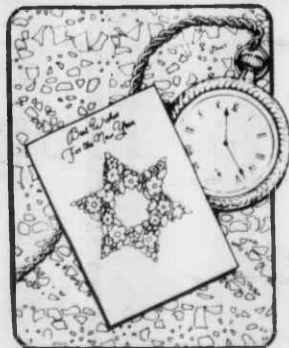
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